

SUPREME COURT.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before Sir James Russell, Chief Justice.)

December 18th, 1890.

EMPRISONMENT BY A BAILEY.

Jonquiere Xavier, late assistant bailiff of the Supreme Court, was indicted with the embezzlement of \$1,050 of the monies of the said Court. Mr. E. J. Acheson, Acting Attorney General, prosecuted. The prisoner was unrepresented by Counsel.

The following jury was sworn in:—Messrs. R. Adams, P. I. Schwartz, W. R. Russell, B. Medard, J. O. Gons, P. Hewitt, J. E. Barker and O. Wegener.

The Attorney-General in opening the case for the prosecution said that the bailiff of the Supreme Court, Mr. F. Howell, sent the prisoner in May last to collect the sum of \$95.50 from a Mr. Wolff at Kowloon. He also sent the prisoner to collect the sum of \$63.25 from the late Mr. A. G. Agar. Both sums were to be collected for the Court by virtue of writs of execution. The said sums were never paid to the Court although the prisoner admitted to him (Howell) that he had collected them in due course. The prisoner absconded from the colony on or about Tuesday the 27th of May last. After that day, the 27th May, the next time Howell saw the prisoner was on the 10th of last month, when he was brought back to Hongkong from Macao by Detective Inspector Quincey.

The sheriff of the Court, Mr. Hall Ismail, Mr. Howell and an assistant bailiff corroborated. The prisoner, when asked what defence he had to make, said "I pray for the mercy of the Court, as I am unrepresented."

The jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty.

When asked why sentence should not be passed the prisoner again said that he begged for the mercy of the Court as he was unrepresented.

His Lordship sentenced the prisoner to eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour.

A PROMISING YOUTH.

Mok Acheung, a school-boy, was indicted with cutting and wounding a Portuguese boy named Collaco, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and alleged that another boy committed the act and ran away.

A. P. Collaco, stated the prisoner stabbed him on the 5th ultimo because he did not pay him fifty cents at the cost of pocket-knife.

Several Portuguese school-boys were called in evidence for the prosecution and stated that the prisoner was the boy who did the stabbing. They were followed by Dr. Atkinson who explained the various nature of the wound and the condition of the boy Collaco when admitted to the Civil Hospital on the 10th instant.

The prisoner, who showed remarkable ability in the noble art of cross-examination, was found guilty.

Judgment was deferred.

GUILTY OF MURDER.

At the adjourned Criminal Sessions this morning Tsang Ali was indicted with the wilful murder of Chum Kum on the 9th ultimo.

Mr. E. J. Acheson, Acting Attorney-General, prosecuted and Mr. Phillipps, instructed by Mr. Morgan, defended. The following jury was sworn in:—Messrs. W. J. Gons, M. R. R. C. H. Kew, C. F. Gons, M. R. Jones Hughes, R. T. Wright and J. Olsen.

Mak Awei, sister of the deceased, had been in Victoria Gaol for about 7 years and during that time she kept a boarding house in Second Street. Chum Kum and Tsang Ali had been boarders in her house for about three years.

About 9 o'clock p.m. on the 9th ultimo she heard her daughter, a child of 10 years of age, cry out "my life is in danger" and shortly afterwards she was informed that the prisoner had slain Chum Kum with an axe. Her daughter saw the act committed.

Cross-examined—The prisoner was her cousin, and he found fault with her because the deceased brought medicine into her room while she was living ill suffering from a burnt foot. Her daughter went to a lamp over her feet, and it burnt off the skin not only of one foot but part of the leg, as well. The prisoner was her clansman and as such it would be his duty to look after her during the incarceration of the husband.

Chun Afun, daughter of the last witness, said she saw the prisoner kill the deceased with the axe produced in Court. He bolted and she pursued him into the next street. She next saw the prisoner at the Police Court.

Dr. Atkinson gave evidence as to the nature of the wound inflicted on the deceased, and stated that he died in the Civil Hospital about 6.30 p.m. on the 9th of last month. Kong Sau Tai a servant corroborated.

Several witnesses examined for the defence stated that there had been ill-feeling between the deceased and the prisoner on account of the suspected intimacy of the former with the proprietress of the house.

The jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty of wilful murder.

The Judge formally sentenced the prisoner to death as follows:—The sentence of the Court on you Tsang Ali is that you be taken to the place whence you came and thence to the place of execution, and that you be there hanged by the neck until you be dead and that your body be buried at such place as His Excellency the Governor shall direct, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul.

December 14th.

At the adjourned Sessions this morning Mak Acheung and Kung Kwan, who were found guilty of the crimes of cutting and wounding and arson, respectively, last week, were brought before the Court this morning to receive sentence.

THE CUTTING AND WOUNDING CASE.

In passing sentence upon the youth Mak Acheung, His Lordship said that he had given the subject his most careful consideration. The jury had twice recommended the boy to the mercy of the Court and that fact, although tending towards mitigation of punishment, could not be regarded as a desire on the part of the jurors that he should not be punished at all. The offence, that of cutting and wounding, was one of a very serious nature. The boy, Collaco, might have died from the injuries inflicted on him, and had that been so the prisoner would have been tried for murder. He did not wish to cause such a young boy to be hanged in gaol with thieves and criminals of various descriptions for a long period so he would simply sentence him to three months' imprisonment. He hoped that at the expiration of that time he would behave better than hitherto towards his fellow-prisoners who from all accounts, was a most respectable member of society. He had heard

that the prisoner broke out of the Roman Catholic Reformatory some months ago, but as there was no evidence of the truth of the allegation he could not take that into consideration. Had there been proof of the report it would have carried weight with it in the matter of judgment.

The prisoner, who was palpably moved by the lecture which the Judge read to him, was then removed from the dock to Victoria Gaol.

THE ARSON CASE.

His Lordship in passing sentence upon Kung Kwan said that the clearest evidence of a deliberate attempt to set fire to 36, Bridges Street had been adduced. The prisoner had threatened to "roast them (the inmates of the house) all in the same pot" and he certainly tried to do so. He poured kerosene over the stairs and set fire to it, but fortunately the fire was discovered before it had gained much headway. Had the fire not been quenched the result might have been most serious, for the house in question was crowded with people asleep, with one or two exceptions, sound asleep at the time the prisoner, in a fit of jealousy, attempted to burn the house down. He had no doubt that many fires recurred through jealousy over women, and it was most difficult to get a conviction owing to lack of sufficient evidence. In this case, however, the police, who got on the track of the prisoner with great promptitude, caught the man with kerosene on his clothes and the smell of kerosene emitted from the pores of the skin of his hands, which link completed the chain of evidence. The prisoner would therefore go to gaol for two years, with hard labour.

This completed the business of the December Sessions.

THE SINGAPORE CRICKET CAMPAIGN.

HONGKONG ON THE WAR-PATH.

The team of cricketers who leave by the English mail steamer *Thames* for Singapore tomorrow to do battle for Hongkong against the serried array of cricketers in the Straits Settlements, may possibly be unable, through the vicissitudes of fickle fortune and the proverbial uncertainty of "the manly game," to achieve success, but it is quite certain that, like Sempronius and his pal, one and all will try to deserve it. Confident in the exceptional all-round proficiency of their representatives, it will certainly prove both a surprise and disappointment to the numerous army of local cricketers if decisive success does not attend the Hongkong Eleven against any and all combinations of their friends in Singapore (not omitting the Ceylon contingent) can play in the field, but we have already prepared to face the unpleasant prospect of defeat and in this latter event the Singapore cricketers who visited this colony last season set us an example worthy of sincere imitation.

It will be admitted without argument that an exceptionally strong and representative team has been recruited for the interesting campaign—not quite the best that Hongkong is capable of producing, but dangerously near it. The names of Leach, G. S. Coxon, and the brothers Maitland are missing from the list, but the substitutes for these thoroughly sound and reliable cricketers are all good men and true, who will without doubt do credit to their selection and to the colours of the Hongkong Cricket Club.

The Club Committee have acted wisely in picking up Lieut. Blaise for the responsible duties of captain of the team, as he is not only about the best all-round cricketer in the Far East, but possesses a thorough knowledge of the game in all its phases. A safe and steady batsman, with a keen eye and powerful wrist, the Lieut. champion can punish loose bowling almost as freely and with more certainty than the biggest of sloppers; and not only is he a perfect fielder, but his slow deliveries with a puzzling break from the leg, rarely fail to prove effective when a difficult separation has to be effected. Captain Dunn is another tower of strength; in all probability the best batsman in the team, he is likewise a most dangerous bowler and quite safe in the field. The Singapore players will enjoy a lively time should Dunn and Blaise get well set off in the event of one of this pair happening to strike a lengthy partnership with Lawson. Sercombe-Smith, or Buft, Lieut. A. J. Campbell is another brilliant batsman, albeit a trifle uncertain; his style generally, and especially his forward play, is most graceful, and he can hit as hard as the best of them. With fair luck the Artyll and Sutherland "crack" will pile up a big score, and either behind the wickets, as a change bowler, or in the outfield, he will be found quite useful.

There is no safer netter in the Eleven than Dr. J. A. Lawson, if he will be in rather less than his usual hurry to commence active operations. The doctor, in spite of his predilection for rapid scoring and tall hitting, dissecting the bowling as it were, can play the game perfectly when he chooses to put the brake on his impetuosity, and he is at all times a most dangerous opponent, placing the ball with unerring accuracy and rarely throwing away a chance. As a bowler the old Edinburgh University transfer, at his best, has no superior, if any rival, in the Club, and when out fielding he doesn't know the way to miss a catch. Another capital bowler at all points is Sercombe-Smith, a determined punisher of loose bowling, a difficult bowler to get away with, and an admirable fielder. A player of much smaller calibre is C. S. Buft, whose lightning deliveries on a favorable wicket always require a deal of careful negotiation, and rarely fail to prove fatal. As a batsman the irrepressible "Charlie" is another of the "dangerous uncertainties," like Lawson and Sercombe-Smith, but once "set" to bowling that is not quite superlative, this lengthy gentleman has an awkward habit of very frequently getting with easy ball hit off very frequently in about the shortest time on record. Captain Carden, R.A., has not performed very often in the colony, but his antecedents are good and his style undeniable. A left-handed batsman who plays a steady, reliable game, who can bowl fairly well, and is more than useful in any position in the team. Another player of whom great things may be expected is E. A. Ram, who bats in good form, hits with surprising hardness for such a little un, and is unsurpassed in the field. That promising young exponent of the popular game, P. Lammer, is likely enough to make several long stumps, and although the present writer is personally unacquainted with the form of Lieut. Boyle, he learns from sound authority that this representative of the Royal Artillery is most likely to give a first-rate account of himself. The spare men, Sergt. Clarke and Corporal Rice, are both good cricketers, so that should their assistance be enlisted it may be relied on that they will fully answer the expectations based on their past deeds with the willow.

This brief résumé will give the Straits champions a slight notion of the doughy warriors they will have to encounter, and in wishing "our boys" bon voyage and a pleasant time in sunny Singapore, it is to be earnestly hoped that in every match played the best team may win.

BILL STURMS.

Hongkong, 25th December, 1890.

THE "NAMO" PIRACY.

MAGISTRATE'S INQUIRY.

Mr. Wodehouse continued the inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Captain Pocock, Mr. Petersen and others, who were killed by pirates on board the British steamship *Namoa* on the 10th instant.

DR. MARQUIS' EVIDENCE.

Dr. Marquis said that he held a *post mortem* examination on the bodies of the two Europeans killed on the steamer *Namoa*, namely, Captain Pocock and Mr. Petersen, a passenger. The body of the Captain was that of a man about 55 years of age. There was a bullet wound on his right side below the right breast. The bullet entered through the lungs and liver eventually lodging on the spinal column. The bullet was of the kind used in a "bull-dog" revolver. The abdomen was full of blood and death had been caused by hemorrhage, caused by the wound. The body was in a healthy state except that the lungs showed signs of old pleurisy, and the kidneys were pale. Witness also held a *post mortem* on the body of another European who was pointed out to him as Mr. Petersen, whose body had three bullet wounds on the left forehead. On his right cheek there was another wound which may have been caused by the blade of a knife. The upper portion of his left arm there were five bullet wounds, two of which corresponded with two wounds in the left chest caused by bullets which had passed through the collar bone and out on the right side. The left collar bone had also been fractured by a bullet which had passed through the blood-vessels and lungs, finally lodging in the abdomen which was full of blood. The liver and right lung were also lacerated. There were also two bullet wounds on the right arm, apparently caused by one bullet. Death had been caused by hemorrhage occasioned by several bullet wounds.

STATEMENT OF A CHINESE PASSENGER.

Yau Ma Shau said he was a trader between Hongkong and Kelt Shik, a village, and was a passenger by the steamship *Namoa* at the time she was pirated. The witness had taken up his quarters on the two decks and had a basket containing 600 tins of silver, a pair of trousers and a pair of shoes with him. About 1 p.m. he heard some shots fired on the deck and he started to go up, but on getting to the companionway he saw a man at the top of the ladder, who shouted out in a threatening way "passengers don't come up!" The man had a revolver in one hand and a sword in the other. Nothing further inspired until about 4 p.m. when several of the pirates came down where the passengers were leaving two or three standing at the top of the companionway. They called for all the passengers to go up on deck, which they did one by one, being searched as they passed up; they found nothing on the witness. Afterwards witnesses, with thirty or forty other passengers were driven to the saloon where they remained until they were let ashore. He thought there were about 20 pirates, altogether, and they did not fire or kill any of the passengers who were in sight of him. There were two or three women on board and they were not injured in any way. If any of the pirates were brought before him he could identify the two who searched him, as they wore European caps. The inquiry was then adjourned until Saturday, at 10 o'clock, to await the arrival of the *Namoa*.

THE "NAMO" PIRATES.

SUPPOSED TRACES OF PART OF THE GANG.

A week ago, some cattle-dealers who make Hongkong their headquarters, were passing through the town of Sum Chun after scouring the country in the neighbourhood of Deep Bay in quest of cattle for the Hongkong market. They there dropped across a number of men who were dressed in the height of fashion and living on the fat of the land, whom they had previously known in this Colony under very different circumstances. The change in the fortunes of their friends, and in the fact that they were informed that it was due to the fact that they (the supposed pirates) had made a big haul by their wits, and would be glad if their friends would come and join them in a "jam-boree," then in course of preparation. The drovers willingly assented, and speak in high terms of praise of the lavish hospitality shown them by their generous entertainers who paid cash down for everything. After the night's revel the cattle dealers took their leave and came on to Hongkong where of course, they heard all about the *Namoa* piracy case, and putting two and two together, they had no doubt that the men whom they had met at Sum Chun were a part of the gang, and without loss of time reported the matter to the police. Detectives have been despatched to Sum Chun with written instructions from the Chief to the Authorities at that place to the effect that they are to aid the police in every way in their endeavours to capture the suspected men. So far, no information has been received here by the Authorities as to the success, or otherwise, of the force sent to Sum Chun.

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THIS useful work has been re-written and greatly enlarged, and is illustrated by lithographs showing the courses of the typhoons of late years.

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or the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" OFFICE, Pedder's Hill, Hongkong, 17th September, 1890.

Insurances.

THREE IMPORTANT FACTS

ABOUT THE STANDARD LIFE OFFICE.

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Hongkong, 14th November, 1890. [1567]

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF 1877 IN HAMBURG.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

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Hongkong, 1st July, 1889. [56]

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Hongkong, 1st July, 1889. [57]

Commercial.

THE WEEK'S SHARE BUSINESS.

Hongkong, December 20th.

We are glad to be able to report that business for the past week has been very brisk and that some large transactions have been satisfactorily put through. A much better feeling has prevailed on the *ratte* and the tone of the market has been decidedly healthy. A good deal has been done in local stocks and the principal of these are now difficult to get at the closing quotations—as given in our appended list.

Banks have been largely dealt in at 26 1/2 per cent. for cash, 26 1/2 per cent. for January and 27 1/2 per cent. for March but have since eased a little and are strong at 25 1/2 per cent. for cash.

New Issue have also been done at 26 1/2 for cash and are now wanted at 27 1/2.

Marines.—Traders are wanted 86 1/2 but there are no shares offering at this figure. Unions and Cantons are also wanted at 100 and 117 respectively.

A strong demand has set in for Hongkong Fires, and shares are difficult to get even at 37 1/2 for cash. Chinas are also wanted at 88.

Docks.—A very large number of shares have been placed at 84 per cent. for cash and are now wanted at 86 per cent. They were also done at 87 and 88 per cent. for January 90 per cent. for March and 91 per cent. for April. Market closing strong.

Steamships were done at 36 1/2 for cash although there are some anxious inquirers after this stock, they are not willing to pay more than 36 for the present and holders are waiting for at least half a point better.

Steamships.—Some China and Manilla shares were done at 136 for March and there are cash sellers at 129. Indo-China's are offering at 27 1/2 per cent. discount. Douglas's are wanted at 47.

Sugar Refiners.—There has been a strong demand for Chinas and sales have been made at 173 for cash. But they are weak on time. Luzons have also improved and sales have been effected at 97 for cash but are now difficult to get at 98.

Ices have been done at 91 and 92 for cash and are now in strong demand at 95. Watsons have improved and sales have been effected at 22 1/2 for cash and 23 1/2 for March.

Hotels: Hongkong's have been done at 165 and 170 for cash and are now wanted at 175. The other are neglected at quotations.

In Mining Stocks there is little to report. Punjoms are now out of favor at 1.20. Balmorals were done at 11 and further shares can be had at this rate. Selamas were done at 1.70 but are now freely offered at 1.50. There has been a strong demand for Imurals and large sales have been effected at 11 1/2 and 12 for cash. 12 1/2 and 13 for March but they have since declined to 11 1/2 for cash and 12 1/2 for March at which rates they are difficult to get—Charbonnages were done at 490 & 500 for cash.

In Wharves a very large sale has been effected at 81 for January and since then 82 has been paid for them. They closed steady at 82 for cash.

Tramways were done at 85 for cash and are now offered at 80.

Borneo Stocks: Sales have been effected in these stocks and closed as under.

East Borneo were done at 112 for cash and closed with sellers at 11.

Songel Royah were done at 112 for cash and closed with sellers at 10.

Labuk Planting were done at 830 for cash and closed with sellers at 30.

Lamays were done at 89 for cash and closed with sellers at 9.

China Borneo were done at 89 for cash and closed with sellers at 8.

H. G. Brown & Co. were done at 62 and further shares are wanted at this rate.

Lands were done at 90 1/2 for cash and are now wanted at 91.

Trust and Loan were done at 104 and 20 for cash and sales at 20 1/2 for March. Founders were done at 160 for January and 165 for March.

The following are the closing quotations.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, 26 1/2 per cent. premium, buyers.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, New Issue—\$270 per share, buyers.

Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$63 per share, buyers.

China Traders Insurance Company—\$65 per share, buyers.

North China Insurance—Tls. 330 per share, sellers.

Antonia Insurance Company, Limited—\$117 per share, buyers.

Vancouver Insurance Association—Tls. 70 per share, buyers.

Yat Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share, buyers.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$337 1/2 per share, buyers.

China Fire Insurance Company—\$88 per share, buyers.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—\$86 per cent. premium, buyers.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$36 1/2 per share, buyers.

China and Manilla Steam Ship Company—129 per share, sellers.

Hongkong Gas Company—\$135 per share, sellers.

Hongkong Hotel Co.'s Six per cent. Debentures—\$100.

Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited—27 1/2 per cent. discount, sellers.

Douglas Steamship Company—\$47 per share, sellers.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$173 per share, buyers.

Laron Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$98 per share, buyers.

Hongkong Ice Company—\$95 per share, buyers.

Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$80 per share.

Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited—\$10 per share, sellers.

A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—\$22 1/2 per share, premium, sellers.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—2 1/2 per cent. premium, sellers.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent. premium, buyers.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1886 E—11 per cent. premium.

Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—\$130 per share, sellers.

The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Ltd.—\$25 per share, nominal.

Panlong and Sungho Doo Samantan Mining Co.—\$24 per share, sellers.

The Raub Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—\$1.20 per share, buyers.

Imurals Mining Co., Ltd.—\$118 per share, sellers.

The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—\$11 per share, sellers.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—\$82 per share, buyers.

Toanquin Coal Mining Co.—\$500 per share, sales.

The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—\$80 per share, sales.

The East Borneo Planting Co., Limited—\$11 per share, buyers.

H. G. Brown & Co., Ltd.—\$62 per share, sellers.

The Songel Royah Planting Co., Ltd.—\$11 per share, buyers.

Labuk Planting Co., Ltd.—\$130 per share, nominal.

The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.

The Anson Arms Hotel and Building Co., Ltd. 100 per cent. dis., sellers.

The Chita-Borneo Co., Ltd.—\$8 per share, sellers.

The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Ltd.—\$1 per share, sellers.

The Green Island Cement Co.—\$20 per share, sellers.

The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Ltd.—\$91 per share, buyers.

The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Ltd.—\$78 per share, sellers.

The Hongkong & Co., Limited—\$22 per share, sellers.

The West Buildings Co., Ltd.—\$30 per share, sellers.

The Park Hotel and Trading Co., Ltd.—\$20 per share, sellers.

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 2727.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1890.

SIX DOLLARS (10/240)
PER QUARTER

BIRTH.
At "Dunford" Mount, Kellet, on the 23rd December, 1890, the wife of A. G. GORDON, of a daughter.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1890.

THE VALUE OF PUBLIC OPINION IN HONGKONG.

ONE of the greatest, as it is the most popular definition in this colony, is what is conveniently, and for lack of a more appropriate name, termed public opinion. This is a confirmed article of faith, an almost universal fetish, from the head of the Government down to the petty scribbler who is responsible for the comical and strangely diluted productions which the readers of the *Daily Press* have to swallow as editorials with the maternal bloaters; yet, so far as the British community is concerned, it has no tangible existence. As we have said, it is a popular delusion. There are no well-defined "classes" in Hongkong, as is the case in any English town of similar size, to form that important political and social factor which at home so greatly influences, if it does not actually direct, the machine of local government. In fact, to put the matter in the plainest words, there is only one class here that is permitted to represent anything or anybody, and its members have acquired, after years of experience, the happy knack of carefully and most effectually representing themselves collectively, and their respective interests individually. Hongkong has a self-constituted sort of political upper class of limited dimensions, comprising the leading merchants, two or three bank managers and wealthy landowners, some few high-toned stockbrokers and general "jobbers," and Mr. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., a numerous middle-class, which includes store-keepers, the legal and medical practitioners, the druggists of the Fourth Estate, architects and surveyors, commission agents and auctioneers, the unclassified array of clerks and what are called assistants, the rank and file of the once all-powerful but now greatly depreciated army of sharebrokers, a limited number of resident engineers, shipwrights, etc., a variety of hotel and inn-keepers, and persons engaged in several other occupations. Of the real laboring classes, "the backbone and sinew" of the British nation according to fervid orators at election times, we have none outside the Chinese, and the potent vox populi of the ancient Romans is consequently dead as Queen Anne. As the members of the lower middle class, to a very great extent dependent for their worldly success on the patronage and support of the influential "upper house," and scarcely can say that their souls are their own without giving grievous offence to their patrons, it has come to pass that, any political views as to rights of citizenship, or ideas of manly independence they may have once believed in, have been crushed out; the soothing influence of the almighty dollar has achieved a most decisive and notable victory. The actual situation is therefore easy to define; there is only the dominant class recognised in the colony as having any rights or privileges whatever—beyond that doubtful privilege of being graciously permitted to pay a most outrageous taxation, which the lower orders equally enjoy, so that the personal desires of the three or four wirepullers who effectually control the rest of *Nous Autres* form that convenient excuse for so many errors of commission and omission—so-called public opinion.

All that we have just set down is perfectly well known, and although the position is rather an ignominious one, it is nevertheless generally submitted to with a fairly good grace, on the principle that what cannot be cured must be endured. There are naturally some unruly dissentients; but these are superciliously regarded as iconoclasts, rabid advocates of the universal rights of man, opponents of the one law for the rich and another for the poor theory and practice, believers in the equal claims of all tax-payers to the recognised privileges of citizenship—and are accordingly marked "dangerous" and ruthlessly stamped out of existence whenever a favorable chance occurs. But if it is the case, as we contend, that public opinion has no tangible existence—outside occasional independent press utterances, it must necessarily follow that local institutions such as the Legislative Council and the Sanitary Board, which are supposed to reflect that opinion, are very inadequate representatives of the citizens and the colony's interests. And that is the precise impression we wish to convey to our readers. The official class in matters political represent the Government alone; the public welfare, or what is supposed to be the public welfare, is no doubt the goal to be reached, but apart from all personal ideas the officials must reach that goal in exact accordance with their instructions. They are allowed no latitude whatever; but whether the policy is good or bad, they represent something definite, and their positions, however much in need of amendment, are at least comprehensible. It is not so with the unofficial representatives, each member must be credited with working "as he considers best for the common end," but as a body they have no recognised organization, no defined duties or obligations—either to the general public or to each other, and in fact there is no actual bond of union between them and the vast majority of ratepayers. An exception

to these sweeping assertions may, perhaps, be found in the case of the Chinese Member; the existence of a very strong Chinese public opinion in our midst has been sufficiently demonstrated in the past to admit of any doubt now, and as Dr. Ho Kai is the duly elected representative of his nationals, his position in the councils of the colony is as unique as it is gratifying to Chinese aspirations. Members of the Legislative Council nominated by the Government without reference to the wishes of the community may or may not prove reliable safeguards of public *versus* official or purely personal interests; but in any case they are not the elect of the rate-payers, and it will hardly be denied that this is a very singular anomaly in these levelling and enlightened days. The necessity for the right of Government nomination in appointing unofficial legislative councillors, if it ever really existed, has no longer any *raison d'être* even in Crown colonies; and we believe that Hongkong is absolutely the last important station that is still burdened with these galling and unconstitutional fetters. The same argument applies, in a lesser degree, to the members of Council elected respectively by the Justices of the Peace and the Chamber of Commerce. They may represent the views of these two institutions, but that does not mean that they must also of necessity equally represent the general community. The *ipse dixit* of Governor BOWEN, that this method of selection was the only form of popular election practicable in Hongkong, was like a great many more of that foolish old gentleman's frothy enunciations, a compound of inexcusable ignorance and careless misrepresentation. It had the effect, however, of introducing a baneful "class" system in our local government which would not have been tolerated elsewhere, and of swamping the natural and legitimate aspirations of the community for an elective Municipal Council like those in other colonies, to manage all local affairs. The time is now ripe for important reforms in this direction, and the return to the colony of Governor Sir Vaux is a fitting opportunity to begin the good work. There is sufficient influence, ability, and energy amongst the despised middle lower class to effect any measure of reasonable reform against all opposition, if these qualities are only properly applied. We have debating, literary and other societies flourishing in our midst; we have lately seen a Marine Officers' Association become a power in the colony; and a powerful Institution of Marine Engineers has, in keeping with the spirit of the times, just sprung into existence for the purpose of protecting the interests of that influential body. The formation of a Political Club or Society would present no insuperable difficulties, and under capable management would probably obtain within a few months important measures of reform that the Government, if left to itself and the influences of the favored few who are at present enjoying privileges that belong to the many, will probably "sleep on" for years.

THE HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAY COMPANY.

THE recently published Report and Statement of Accounts of the Hongkong High-Level Tramway Company, Limited, for the year ended the 30th November last, show results that cannot but be considered depressingly unsatisfactory. And these results must be greatly intensified to *bona fide* shareholders, who invested their money, in what appeared on the surface to be one of the most useful and legitimate industrial enterprises that had ever been started in Hongkong, on representations which appear, not to use any harsher term, to have been based on a most uncertain foundation. A few weeks after the Company first commenced operations the success was reported to be so astonishing that in a very short space of time the shares were quoted in the local market at from four to five hundred per cent. premium, and it is almost superfluous to say that the golden opportunity was not lost of making hay while the sun was at its Zenith, by the original promoters of the concern. So far as the actual business prospects of the Tramway Company are concerned, there has been no appreciable change from the day it was started up till now. Reliance was placed for a steady income from permanent residents in the Peak districts, and we believe that the calculations of the promoters were chiefly based on this source of revenue, the outside traffic from casual visitors being necessarily a changeable and uncertain element. So far as we can learn there has not been such a great diminution of the number of hill residents as to transform a prospective profit into what can only be regarded as a rather serious loss, so it would appear that a mistake was originally made in drawing out a prospective balance sheet. That there has been for the past year a great falling off in the casual visitors' traffic cannot be doubted; but for this drawback there are intelligible causes, and there is every reason to suppose that a substantial improvement in this respect in the near future may be relied on with some confidence. The gross receipts for the twelve months total \$25,203.20, which at first sight seems a fairly large return for the Company's small capital; but when it is found that almost the whole of this is eaten up by working expenses, which aggregate \$24,170.21, and leave a nominal net profit of only \$1,032.99, the evident conclusion is arrived at, that the Company has blundered grievously in estimating the

percentage of cost of up-keep to the probable gross profits. That this is so is further indicated by the fact that against a net profit (so-called) of \$1,032.99 there is what is actually a set-off of no less than \$8,324.23 for repairs to the line, necessitated by a landslide in May of last year, which has been dealt with as an asset and placed to Suspense *a/c* instead of to the debit of Working *a/c*. Whether or not an appreciable reduction in working expenses can be made practicable is a matter for the consideration of those immediately interested, and no doubt the shareholders, with the detailed items for their guidance, and a thorough acquaintance with the requirements of the traffic, are in a position to arrive at some definite decision. An efficient staff is a *sine qua non* for an enterprise of this kind, and it is always false economy to under-pay capable employees; but nevertheless an outlay of over \$11,000 per annum for salaries and wages, or a monthly average of about \$920, certainly does seem very heavy. The General Managers' commission of \$1,259.26—five per cent. on the gross receipts—is a considerable item, and under the circumstances \$850 for fees to the members of a Consulting Committee and one Auditor will probably be considered excessive. It is difficult to estimate Charges account (\$2,122.12), Coals and Stores (\$3,746.34), and Maintenance and Repairs (\$2,591.20), but we do not hesitate to say that an impost of \$905 as Police rates, for what is really a public benefit, is scandalously exorbitant, and ought to be made the subject of special representations to the Government.

The General Managers and Committee have been advised that the Company has a good case to legally recover the outlay caused by the landslide in May, 1889; but owing to lack of available funds and the uncertainty of the law, they cannot recommend that a suit be proceeded with. Such a recommendation as this may well astonish both shareholders and the general public, especially as one of the members of the Consulting Committee is a solicitor practising in the colony; but likely enough it is sound advice. Success or failure would greatly depend on who the Company made defendant in the suit. We think a wise policy has been followed in not holding out any bright hopes as to future prospects, although in our opinion better times are in store. Last summer was a very unfavorable one for the Peak generally, and as the Peak Hotel was closed there was really very little inducement to take visitors "top-side." Next season will probably show better results, and the opening of the two new hotels and reduced house rents in the higher levels cannot fail to prove advantageous. However, we would strongly urge the Consulting Committee to give the reduced fare principle a reasonable trial at the first favorable opportunity. Present rates are simply exorbitant, and in an enterprise of this sort popular prices are the secret of success.

EXTRADITION ANOMALIES.

CHINESE extradition cases form the greatest difficulty experienced by our local Police Magistrates in the performance of their by no means arduous duties. And although this difficulty is not generally of a strictly legal character, it is none the less troublesome, and is rarely solved to the complete satisfaction either of the magistrate himself or of those of the outside public in any way interested in the proceedings. These extradition cases in the vast majority of instances very closely resemble each other; the old familiar ground has to be travelled over, and over again, and the same tragic stories of blood and rapine, murder and piracy, with but slight alterations as to time and place and the personnel of the *dramatis personae* listened to, from nondescript Chinese witnesses who in nine cases out of ten are arrant liars. The form of procedure rarely varies, and the results never. International law is stuck to as closely as his Worship knows how, and as special directions from Government House will allow, but the end is always the same—the unfortunate wretch, whose fate is too often decided by the false testimony of the paid hicklings of unscrupulous mandarins, is consigned to gaol to wait the Governor's instructions; the Governor's instructions invariably are to deliver him up to the Chinese authorities; he is accordingly handed over in Hongkong harbour, chained to the deck of one of the Viceroy's cruisers, conveyed post haste to Canton, and after the usual blood-curdling preliminaries to popular with the vindictors of outraged Celestial laws, the little tragedy ends in that filthy potter's yard, so tragically known as the Execution Ground. Hongkong is unfortunately situated in being so easily within reach of Chinese criminals as a haven of refuge. The misfortune of course, is the colony's advantage of the position is distinctly with the Chinese authorities, whose elaborate spy system enables them to keep on the track of all dangerous offenders and, with the assistance of the Hongkong Government, to eventually run them to earth—taking this last phrase in a literal sense. We rarely hear of an unsuccessful outbreak against the Chinese authorities in the Liang Kwang or Peking provinces that is not shortly followed by the arrest in this colony, at the instance of the Viceroy of Canton, of one or more alleged notorious murderers and pirates, whose defence invariably is that they were concerned in an insurrection or riot against the Government, but that they never were near the vicinity where the

murders and piracies were said to have taken place. There is no manner of doubt that in many instances men who were actually political offenders and nothing more, have been, after a one-sided investigation before the magistrate that was a complete farce, delivered up to certain death on evidence that was palpably trumped up, referring to crimes that in all probability never were committed. Appeals to the Supreme Court for an order of *habeas corpus* have occasionally been made at the instance of solicitors who felt dissatisfied with a more than ordinary disregard of evidence and the principles of law and justice by the magistrate; but rarely indeed with any encouraging success, and it has now apparently been recognised as a *fait accompli*, after the commitment to gaol, to the inevitable without any further attempt to assert the special claim of political offenders.

An appeal recently decided in England is worthy of some attention here, considering the frequency of extradition cases, and especially as it is substantially on all fours with a local case that attracted considerable attention a few years back, in which a Chinese doctor, who headed an insurrection in the Swatow district, was delivered up by the Hongkong Government and beheaded at Canton. Last September an armed insurrection occurred at Bellinzona, in the Swiss canton of Ticino, and in attacking the palace some shots were fired—one of which, attributed to a man named CASTRONI, killed Mr. Rossi, a Member of the Council. CASTRONI, on the suppression of the insurrection, escaped to London, and a demand for his extradition was made by the Swiss Government. The practice in Hongkong is the practice in England; a magisterial inquiry took place, the result of which was that the magistrate, Mr. LUSHINGTON, granted an order for the man's extradition. This was appealed against, and on November 11th a unanimous judgment was given by Justice DENMAN, HAWKINS, and STEPHEN, overruling the magistrate's decision, and ordering CASTRONI's release. The basis of the judgment was simply that no fugitive criminal who has taken refuge under the British flag shall be delivered up if his offence is one of a political character. Even assuming that CASTRONI fired the fatal shot that killed Rossi, it was clear enough that it was a political offence and not an ordinary case of homicide. As Mr. Justice HAWKINS observed—"the magistrate's decision was by no means sufficient either as to law or as to fact." This important judgment establishes beyond doubt that British territory is still a safe refuge for political criminals of all countries, and it should not be lost sight of in dealing with the by far too numerous extradition cases which are constantly attracting public notice in this colony.

THE QUERIES OF THE UNOFFICIALS.

THE unofficial members of the Legislative Council are doing useful service to the community in Finance Committee by insisting, on all necessary details and explanations being supplied before giving their sanction to large votes for projected Public Works. And of late they have been making inquiries as to certain heavy items of expenditure in the not very far distant past, which are also calculated to do good. Mr. T. H. WHITEHEAD, who has been especially prominent in this direction, asked some very pertinent questions at a meeting held on the 15th instant regarding the very important question of the new water mains and "distributary" system of Victoria water-works recommended by Mr. O. CHADWICK, for which a vote of \$70,000 was asked to meet the estimated expenditure for 1891. The honorable member was naturally desirous of knowing what he was actually voting for, and his query—Whether there was any risk of Mr. CHADWICK's plans being departed from, now that that expert had left the colony? was, in light of past experiences, very much to the point. And as it elicited a reply to the effect that the resident engineer would not be justified in altering or modifying the plans, and the not generally known information that Mr. CHADWICK was in receipt of \$300 per annum from the colony as "consulting engineer at home" in connection with this work, Mr. WHITEHEAD did not labour in vain. But something still more important resulted from his inquiry, something that is calculated to profoundly astonish those who have taken any interest in the past achievements of the talented staff of the Public Works department. The Surveyor General committed himself to the astounding statement that the increased cost over estimates of the new Central School—Sir "Toady" BOWEN's vaunted Victoria College—was "owing to the foundations of the building having turned out a great deal worse than was expected." Provision was not made in the estimates for such a bad foundation as was found when the ground was opened up. Mr. BOWEN, on being catechised by Dr. Ho Kai as to how the foundations turned out worse than expected, regretted he couldn't make his words any clearer, and practically collapsed when Mr. CHATELAIN, speaking from an extensive experience of such matters, politely, but none the less plainly indicated that he did not believe that bad foundations could possibly have almost doubled the estimated cost of the building. (Mr. W. M. DEANE, who presided over the discussion, and Mr. WHITEHEAD, who suggested to Mr. CHATELAIN that he should question the required information about the Central School Building, and Mr. DEANE, who

would bring out something and set the public mind at rest! And we would likewise suggest that the history of the new Police Station at Kennerly Town would interest the rate-payers.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE COLONY OF HONGKONG.

III.
We have now seen the manner in which this colony was founded as a British possession on the 26th of January 1841, and how with the issue of the Government "Gazette" (Nos. 1 and 2), responsible government was established. It remains to be known how, when, and in what way Hongkong was declared a free port. This can be learned by a perusal of the subjoined proclamation issued under the hand and seal of Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, Capt. Charles Elliot, R.N.

A PROCLAMATION.
It is hereby declared to the merchants and traders of Canton and all parts of the empire, that they and their ships have free permission to resort to and trade at the port of Hongkong, where they will receive full protection from the high officers of the British nation. Hongkong being on the shores of the Chinese empire, there will be no charges on "Imports" and "Exports" payable to the British Government, and it is further clearly declared, that there will be an immediate embargo upon the port of Canton and all the large ports of the empire, if there be the least obstruction to the freedom of Hongkong. Persons bringing information to the British officers which shall lead to the detection of pirates will be liberally rewarded, and the pirates will be taken and delivered over to the officers of the Chinese Government for punishment. Done at Macao, this 7th day of June, 1841.

FIRST LAND SALES.
The first public land sales took place in June 1841, under the following conditions: The land, upon a careful examination of the ground, it has been found impossible to put up the number of lots named in the governmental advertisement of the 7th instant, so only 40 lots, having a frontage of 100 feet each, can at present be offered for sale. These lots will all be on the seaward-side of the road. Lots on the land-side of the road, and hill and suburban lots in general, will yet require some time to mark out.

Each lot will have a sea-frontage of 100 feet, nearly. The depth from the sea to the road will necessarily vary considerably. The actual extent of each lot, as nearly as it has been possible to ascertain it, will be declared on the ground. And parties will also have the opportunity of observing the extent of the lots for themselves.

The biddings are to be for annual rate of quit-rent, and shall be made in pounds sterling, the dollar, in all payments, to be computed at the rate of 4s. 4d. The upset price will be £10 for each lot, the biddings to advance by 10s. each bid.

Each lot having been knocked down to the highest bidder, he will receive an acknowledgment that he is the purchaser of the lot; and this acknowledgment will be exchanged for a more formal title as soon as the precise measurement and registration of the lots shall be completed.

Upon delivery of the titles, (deeds) purchasers will be called on to pay the rent for the first year, reckoning from the date of sale.

The rent will also be required to erect upon each lot a building of the appraised value of \$1,000 or to incur upon the land an outlay to that amount within a period of six months from the date of sale. As security for the performance of this engagement a deposit of \$500 shall be paid into the hands of the treasurer or the superintendents within one week from the day of sale—the deposit being repayable as soon as an equal amount shall have been expended. Non-compliance with these terms will incur forfeiture of the deposit, and allotment.

J. ROSE, MORRISON, Acting Sec. and Treas. to the Superintendents of Trade.

Several large lots of land, ranging from 500 to 17,000 square feet per lot, were knocked down at the first sales at an average price of eight pence per square foot.

In the next chapter we shall give some particulars of the war spirit prevailing amongst the Chinese shortly after our occupation of this island. "War against Queen Victoria and her rebellious" (England, being considered by the Chinese, at that time, as an infatuated State, the word rebel was applied by our Celestial enemies with more or less reason) subjects, and by all means was the decree that went forth from the one man occupying the Dragon Throne.

(To be continued.)

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

JAPANESE, papers report that Sir Edwin and Miss Arnold arrived at Kyoto on the 10th inst.

THE *Shanghai Mercury* bears that Lord Salisbury has accepted Mr. P. J. Hughes's resignation, and that he will probably leave Shanghai about March next. The promotion of Mr. Chilton Alabaster, of Canton, appears to be nigh.

A RUMOUR is "going the rounds" in Shanghai to the effect that the authorities at Tokyo Arsenal are hurrying on the manufacture of 100,000 Murataries. About 1,800 mechanics are already employed in connection therewith and others are being engaged.

THE names of the H.M.S. *Support* surveyors are: Gould, leading seaman; Burton, E.J., and Oneil, junior surveyors. As soon as they are able to travel from the scene of the wreck they are to be taken to England and there to be placed, technically, under arrest until the conclusion of the court-martial.

A MEETING of the Jubilee Committee was held at the City Hall on Saturday last, at which Sir James Russell, K.C.M.G., presided. It was decided upon the motion of the Hon. J. A. Kewick, that no decision be arrived at with regard to the form which the permanent Jubilee memorial should take until the committee had had a further opportunity of considering the matter, and it was arranged that the Hon. Secretary should invite suggestions to be received not later than the 31st January.

THE monthly settlement, although an exceptionally large one, has, we are glad to learn, passed off most satisfactorily, and business on the *Rialto* is now healthier and of a more solid nature than it has been for a long time past. The lesson taught the local would-be Jay Goulds in the golden era of '89 when fortunes were made and lost in a day—on paper—has evidently been laid to heart.—*Expertus mentis.*

THE Secretary of the Balmoral Gold Mining Company, Limited, received the following telegram from the Company's agent at 4 p.m. on the 23rd inst.:—Sydney, 23rd December, 2.38 p.m. "The three tons of pyrites have produced 60 ozs. 10 dwts. of gold; nothing will now be done until after the holidays." This refers to the three tons of pyrites from the crushing, reported by telegram on the 16th inst.

THE regular meeting of Lodge "Victoria," No. 1025, C.C. was held last evening (22nd inst.) in the Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, when Wm. Bro. J. McLeary Brown was installed in the Chair by the District Grand Master, Right Wor. Bro. C. P. Chater, and the District Grand Lodge Officer. The following officers were invested by the Wor. Master:—Senior Warden, Bro. Watson; Junior Warden, Bro. Byer Bill; Treasurer, Wor. Bro. Ray; Secretary, A. O'D. Gaudin; Senior Deacon, Bro. Grant; Junior, "Hunter"; Director of Ceremonies, "Newton"; Inner Guard, "Potts"; Tiler, "Grumble."—*Tiler.*

SAVES THE *Hongkong Times*.—Having now had time to wade through the evidence in the late conspiracy case at Hongkong, as reported in the *Hongkong papers*, we feel to see what part of it the four jurymen founded their verdict of "guilty" against the defendants, and what is more, the verdict is, in our opinion, decidedly against the Judge's summing up of the case. In these circumstances there is ground for a new trial, and we hope to hear later on, that in the cause of justice, the friends of the twentynine who have been thus made the victims of either prejudice or partiality, will take steps to prevent execution of judgment until the case is tried anew.—*It could tell our esteemed contemporary that the day is not far distant when we shall—*

The triumph of *Judas Iscariot* was of but short duration and history repeats itself! DURING the past fortnight rice has been pouring into Canton. It is chiefly imported from Wuhu where, owing to the unusually bountiful first and second crops, the price is down lower than has been known for many years. The drought still continues in the province of Kwang-tung and has now resulted in the utter failure of the second crop—the evidence increasing demand for the staple of Chinese life. From northern ports, At Bangkok, for the prospects for the masses are by no means bright, owing to the partial failure of the autumn crops. The "Shan" line and other steamers coming up from Bangkok and Saigon continue, however, to bring us a good deal of rice which is forwarded on to Canton to meet the demand of the Authorities, who are accumulating vast stocks of it, with a view to alleviating the distress which is sure to be widespread throughout the province during the latter part of the present winter and early spring. Best rice is now fetching \$2.65 per picul at the "City of Ramis," while the quotation for first quality, here is \$2.55, and for seconds \$2.15 to \$2.20.

TAKE a long breath, gentle reader, for what is to follow can only be swallowed in sections. The much-travelled Mr. Henry Norman has returned home and is making his erstwhile confidant green with jealousy, by the free-and-easy manner in which he speaks of the wonders of the world, and of the potentates in particular. As reply to an interviewer he has said:—"The cool impertinence to deliver himself thus!—The Chinaman—don't speak of him. Sometimes he is simply horrible, and one meets Chinese that one can hardly accept as human beings. The Chinaman and the mosquito are the two great mysteries of creation." In reply to what was the most interesting, Mr. Norman said:—"The most interesting events were the volcanic explosion in Japan and the cock-fighting in Manila; the most interesting localities were the Great Wall of China, the Tropic-Chinese frontier, and San Francisco; the most interesting experiences were the visit to Bangkok in the summer palace of the King of Siam; and the dances at Seoul, the capital of Korea; the most interesting men were Lord Lansdowne and Sir Robert Hart; the most interesting place was Temoh."

NOMINATIONS for the Hongkong Derby of 1891 close to the Clerk of the Course at the Hongkong Club on Saturday next, the 27th inst. The conditions, detailed in an advertisement in another part of this issue, are exactly the same as of late years. It is to be hoped, however, that by next season something will be done by the active members of the Jockey Club to make what ought to be the most interesting sporting event of the year, more in keeping with the altered character of modern racing. The present added money—\$100 for first and \$50 for second pony—is simply absurd in these days of big stakes and high-priced racers. A sum of at least \$500 for winner, with \$250 for the second and \$100 for third, should be added from the Fund, and the whole of the subscriptions ought also to go to the winner. The Jockey Club can well afford to give a great deal more added money than has been the practice, and it only requires owners and active supporters of racing to combine and move in this matter in order to obtain the desired alterations. In another part of the conditions for the Hongkong Derby are fully, and this is in making the standard weight 12st. 10lb., without regard to the height of the pony. Instead of weight for inches as per scale. A standard weight, as has been tried, will be equally fair to all parties concerned, but it is certainly not fair to the interests of true sport. To put it at 12st. 3 and 13st. 4 at even weight would, a mile-and-a-half journey, be ridiculous. Entertainers would probably have won the Derby last season under any circumstances, but it must not be forgotten that he actually carried 11st. under his proper weight, an advantage which racing experts can thoroughly appreciate. From what we can learn there is likely to be a strong opposition for the forthcoming Derby, and although the highly-trained Royal appears to stand out far ahead of any of the "dark ones," experienced opinion is in Shanghai, as much divided as to the merits of Mr. Buxley's "chuck." The two stable hands to have a strong hand in the matter, and the latest danger from the North, indicate that several dangerous candidates will be furnished from Mr. Sassoon's powerful contingent. "Waylong's" a sporting representative is also credited with possessing several types of the first water, and it is presumed that should Mr. Forbes of the Victoria select to try his luck in Happy Valley, his colts will be carried by the pick of his men.

ADMIRAL BELKNAP, U.S.N., is expected at Shanghai, with his flagship, the *Omaha*, on Monday the 22nd instant.

We are glad to hear that Messrs. George R. Stevens & Co. have received a telegram from the Head Office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha on the 20th inst., reporting that the Company's steamer *Harima Maru*, which was ashore off the west coast of Japan, has been floated and towed to Yokohama Dock.

The *Shanghai Mercury* hears that the penalty enjoined in the contract between the Chinese Government and the French syndicate, for any delay or failure to deliver over the dock and other works at Port Arthur within the stipulated time, which would amount to some 15,000,000, and which was remitted by the Chinese Government upon the application of the Provincial Treasurer Chou-fu.

The British surveying ship *Egeria*, Captain A. M. Field, which arrived in port on the 19th inst. from Singapore, reports as follows:—"Left Singapore on the 27th ultimo. Carried fine weather to Labuan, and thence had strong N.E. wind, and which would amount to some 15,000,000, and which was remitted by the Chinese Government upon the application of the Provincial Treasurer Chou-fu."

It is reported that the Japanese Government has negotiated a Special Convention with Korea by which the latter will, from the 1st of January 1891, allow the export of red glass, hitherto a prohibited article, upon payment of a duty of 20 per cent *ad valorem*. China, it is rumoured in the "Lind of Morning Calm," has forbidden Korea to exchange the ratification of the Convention with the Japanese special envoy who is now sojourning in the Korean capital.

The Formosa correspondent of a Shanghai contemporary thus:—"I am glad to state it is now a certainty that H.E. the Governor remains in his position here. The Imperial Censors went to Canton from Foochow and did not come to Formosa at all, and Mr. Chang Souy, the late Manager of the Formosa Trading Co., has got leave for a time and will be relieved by Mr. Tsai Yungwe, the late Director of the Coal Mine Syndicate. We hope that the Coal Mine Syndicate will receive Imperial sanction, and that that is the reason for keeping Mr. Tsai engaged here."

ON Thursday night last, a gentleman of the name of Campbell, after having gazed long and earnestly on the wine while it was red, enquired himself in an outside chair as comforted by the circumstances would permit and went off to sleep. Some hours afterwards he was surprised to find himself in a diamond ring, and minus his watch, the whole amounting to about \$300. The "peckers" are on the scent, as usual, and that's just about as far as they will get, probably. In the meantime this should be a warning to those confiding individuals who put such faith in the honesty of chair coolies.

IN our issue of the 15th inst. we published a paragraph reflecting on no measured terms on the management of the China and Japan Telephone Company. The local Agent (Mr. A. Sandford) called upon us in consequence, and on being supplied with the necessary information as to the nature of our complaints, made a thorough investigation into the matter and discovered the interesting fact that his operators were in the habit of intercepting any "chit," that they suspected of containing complaints about the working of the lines. Mr. Sandford has, no doubt, often been blamed for not attending to reports of whose conduct he was ignorant, and it is glad that the matter has at last been brought to his notice.

ABOUT three months ago we published correspondence from Korea to the effect that Mr. Greathouse, U.S. Consul-General at Yokohama, had virtually accepted the appointment of Vice-President of the Korean Home of this news is that Mr. Greathouse, has telegraphed the resignation of his post to Washington, and has asked for its acceptance by telegram. He will, probably leave in a few days to take up his appointment as Vice-Minister at the Korean Home Office. We believe that this is the highest office to which a foreigner has yet been appointed by the Korean Government. It is not the highest office to which a foreigner has yet been appointed by the Korean Government, and von Mollendorff, a German, named it by two points at least; another is no less glowing that both Denny and Mollendorff were well worthy of the high honour conferred upon them by what is probably the most impotent and corrupt Administration that exists.

H.M.S. *Firbrand* and *Lizbeth*, the two six-knot gunboats sent out on the 12th instant to catch the *Namoo* pirates, returned here on the 10th inst. after a fruitless search. One has been scouring the coast to the northward, and the other to the southward. The *Firbrand* dropped upon a Chinese cruiser at *Pinghai* which was on the same mission as the British men-of-war. Beyond giving the mandarins at some of the fishing villages photos of the pirate craft, Detective Sergeant McIver, who was on board the *Firbrand*, was unable to do anything towards affecting the arrest of the chief scoundrel. It was ascertained at *Pinghai* that the pirates' junks had numbers painted on them, which prove beyond a doubt the identity of the craft which took the pirates and their plunder off the *Namoo* on the 10th instant were Hongkong-registered fishing junks. We would suggest to the authorities that a valuable clue may be forthcoming were all registered junks promptly mustered with a view to ascertaining the numbers of those that took part in the *Namoo* piracy. Had this been done last Thursday week the pirates might have got hold of some of the relatives of the murderers and of their accomplices, with a semblance of promptitude which would have been commendable.

AN interesting ceremony took place at the Central Police Station on the 20th inst. in connection with the closing of a course of summer lectures by Dr. Cantile. It will be remembered that some months ago the Central Station and upwards of sixty members of the Force enrolled themselves, and attended lectures delivered twice a week by Dr. Cantile. The course of lectures has now come to an end, and the members of the Force, with a view to marking their appreciation of Dr. Cantile's kind and invaluable services, decided to subscribe to a fund which should be invested in the purchase of a handsome bronze vase to be presented to the worthy doctor. The presentation took place this morning in the presence of a number of spectators and a few appropriate words of General Gordon, Acting Captain Superintendent, and Dr. Cantile, the latter in acknowledging the gift addressed the assembly of considerable length and in the course of his speech sketched the rise and progress of the St. John's Ambulance Corps of London. In conclusion Dr. Cantile said that the members' examination papers had been forwarded to the London Board of Examiners, who would report the result, which he, in his turn, would communicate to the local board.

We learn that there is a good deal of truth in the rumour of an intention on the part of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha to extend their lines of steamers to the southward of Hongkong. One route is said to be from Yokohama to Manila and Surabaya, via Shanghai, Amoy and Hongkong. It does not appear that any very definite decision has yet been arrived at by the Board of Directors in Tokyo, but the presence of a fine steamer like the *Miki Maru* in these latitudes is somewhat significant at the present moment.

MR. W. F. Lay, Commissioner of Customs, met with a terrible accident at Hankow on the 13th inst. He had gone over to Hankow to inspect a new house. He went up a flying ladder, and then took a step forward, not seeing, owing to the darkness, that there was nothing to step to, and was precipitated to the bottom, a fall of twenty-five feet. His whole face was smashed in, his left side injured and his left wrist and right knee completely crushed. He was rescued as soon as possible and carried home on a stretcher. By last advice he had no fever and was as cheerful as a man so injured could be. We (N.C. Daily News) regret to hear also that Captain Patton of the China Navigation Co.'s steamer *Batavia* is lying so ill at Hankow that grave doubts are entertained of his recovery.

VICTORIA REGATTA.

FIRST DAY, THURSDAY, 18TH DECEMBER.

The thirty-fifth Regatta of the Victoria Recreation Club was commenced to-day at noon, the course being, as usual, from Yau-ma-tei to a flag-staff moored almost directly opposite the Kowloon Police Station. The *Marina* was specially chartered for the occasion by the committee and suited admirably, affording ample accommodation for the crowd of visitors who were present. By the kind permission of Col. Chatter and Officers of the A. and S. Highlanders was present and added considerably to the general enjoyment of the day. The weather was anything but favourable during the early part of the day, the wind being a trifling high and the water rough and choppy, making things extremely uncomfortable for those engaged in the sculling races. The programme was successfully carried through, and the general arrangements left little room for fault-finding, excepting, perhaps, as regards the tiffin and attendance on board the flagstaff. The former was of the most meagre description—a "one-horse" scramble in fact, reflecting anything but credit on those responsible for dispensing the Club's hospitality.

The following gentlemen officiated and carried out their respective duties most satisfactorily. Judges, rowing races—Col. Chatter, Mr. R. K. Leigh, Starter—Mr. John Andrew, Umpire—Mr. E. L. Woodin. Judge of Yacht Racing—Capt. J. C. Anderson. Judges of sailing boats—Capt. Burnie and Commander Festing, R.N.

Appended will be found the results of yesterday's events:—"Junior Sculls Cup"—Presented by the members of the Victoria Recreation Club, for single sculls; distance, one mile, entrance, \$5; open to any member of the Victoria Recreation Club who has never won a sculling race in China or Japan.

Slit was the favorite at the start and having a decided advantage by drawing inside position ultimately drew away from Potts and won rather easily by several lengths. Time 9 min. 5 sec.

FOR HEAVY GIGS—open to European Non-Commissioned officers and men of any Regiment or Corps of the Garrison, or European members of the police force; the boats to be approved by the Committee; distance, one mile; time allowed for oars, 8 seconds per oar; four boats must start for 2nd prize; entrance, \$1; first prize, \$5; second prize, \$5.

A. & S. Highlanders' Argyle..... 1
Royal Engineers..... 3
A. & S. Highlanders' Louise..... 3
A fourth boat put in an appearance but came too late to start. The *Argyle* and *Louise* got off well together, the *Argyle* being slightly in the lead. The two former made a dig-dog race of it over half the course when the *Argyle* went into a smoother water and gaining a lead of a couple of lengths from the *Louise* kept it to the end. The *Argyle*, who had fallen considerably behind, made a bold bid for first place but missed by a few lengths and beat the *Louise* by about the same distance after a hard fight. Time 7 min. 27 sec.

"LADIES PURSE" presented by the Ladies of Hongkong; for four-oars, distance, one mile; entrance, \$10; to be rowed in boats the property of the Victoria Recreation Club or boats similar in build to those belonging to the Victoria Recreation Club.

"Thistle"—First.
Station No. 3.—Black and White.
Bow, H. P. Wadman..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, G. L. Duncan..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, A. G. Stephen..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, G. C. Master..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, G. A. Caldwell..... 5th. 11b.

"Leek"—Second.
Station No. 4.—Admiral's Flag.
Bow, P. V. Oliver..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, H. W. Metcalfe..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, R. B. Giffiths..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, J. D. Hickley..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, H. Brocklebank..... 5th. 11b.

"Victoria"—Third.
Station No. 1.—Scarlet and White.
Bow, E. G. Young, R.E..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, C. F. Dumas..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, F. L. Jackson..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, Captain Henderson..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, R. de C. Boyd..... 5th. 11b.

"Chairman's Cup" presented by T. Jackson, Esq., Chairman of the Victoria Recreation Club; for four-oars, distance, one mile; entrance, \$10; to be rowed in boats the property of the Victoria Recreation Club.

"Korablum"—First.
Station No. 4.—Black and White.
Bow, E. G. Young, R.E..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, L. C. Baird..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, J. T. H. Sample..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, W. H. Potts..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, M. Fredericks..... 5th. 11b.

"Leek"—Second.
Station No. 3.—Red and White.
Bow, W. S. Taylor..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, E. W. Lucas..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, A. H. Ough..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, H. Skitt..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, H. Sampson..... 5th. 11b.

No. 1, A. H. Ough..... 1st. 11b.
Stroke, H. Skitt..... 2nd. 11b.
Cox, H. Sampson..... 3rd. 11b.

"Korablum"—First.
Station No. 3.—Black and White.
Bow, E. G. Young, R.E..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, G. H. Potts..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, H. P. Wadman..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, A. Duer..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, W. Stapan..... 5th. 11b.

"Thistle"—First.
Station No. 3.—Red and Black.
Bow, P. O. Oliver..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, H. Bole..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, T. H. Dalby..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, G. L. Duncan..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, M. Fredericks..... 5th. 11b.

This was the race of the day and all five boats got off splendidly together, but the *Leek* soon took a slight lead closely followed by the *Thistle*, the others well together. This order was maintained for a considerable distance when the *Thistle* challenged for the premier position but the *Leek* forestalled them and maintained the lead. The *Ross* now came up with a wet sail and joined the *Thistle* and a really good race resulted. The *Shamrock* at last putting on a splendid spurt passed both the *Thistle* and *Ross* and came right up to the *Leek* and a slight foul was supposed to have occurred. The *Shamrock* claimed the race, but the objection to the *Leek* was not sustained and she was awarded the prize. Time 7 min. 39 sec.

"TUB RACE" Cup presented by Members of the Victoria Recreation Club, open to all Members of the Victoria Recreation Club. To be rowed in Tub Sculling Boats approved by the Committee, the property of the Victoria Recreation Club. Distance, One Mile. Entrance, \$5.

F. L. Jackson, 1st. 7lb. 11b.
Captain Henderson, 1st. 6lb. 11b.

Only two started, but the race was well contested throughout, and after a splendid finish Jackson won by about a quarter of a length.

"ST. PATRICK'S CUP," presented by J. J. Francis, Esq.; for pair oars; each crew to consist of two members of the same Mercantile house; distance, one mile; entrance, \$5; to be rowed in boats the property of the Victoria Recreation Club.

"Kathleen"—First.
Station No. 1.—Bank Flag.
Bow, E. C. Fearon..... 1st. 11b.
Stroke, A. G. Stephen..... 2nd. 11b.
Cox, H. Brocklebank..... 3rd. 11b.

"Lily"—Second.
Station No. 4.—Red and White.
Bow, G. L. Duncan..... 1st. 11b.
Stroke, T. H. Dalby..... 2nd. 11b.
Cox, M. Fredericks..... 3rd. 11b.

"Ellen"—Third.
Station No. 3.—Blue and White.
Bow, W. S. Taylor..... 1st. 11b.
Stroke, A. Duer..... 2nd. 11b.
Cox, W. Stapan..... 3rd. 11b.

This was another good start, but after a short distance had been covered the *Kathleen* showed ahead, and it seemed before half the course had been rowed, that she was a moral certainty for the event, and really proved so, winning as she liked from the *Lily* with *Ellen* a fair third. Time 8 min. 4 sec.

"EXCHANGE CUP" presented by the exchange brokers of Hongkong; for pair oars; distance, one mile; entrance, \$5; to be rowed in boats the property of the Victoria Recreation Club.

"Ellen"—First.
Station No. 2.—Admiral's Flag.
Bow, H. W. Metcalfe..... 1st. 11b.
Stroke, J. D. Hickley..... 2nd. 11b.
Cox, F. O. Lewis..... 3rd. 11b.

"Kathleen"—Second.
Station No. 1.—Scarlet and White.
Bow, F. L. Jackson..... 1st. 11b.
Stroke, Captain Henderson..... 2nd. 11b.
Cox, R. de C. Boyd..... 3rd. 11b.

"Maud"—Third.
Station No. 3.—Red and White.
Bow, L. C. Baird..... 1st. 11b.
Stroke, E. H. Grafton..... 2nd. 11b.
Cox, W. Brocklebank..... 3rd. 11b.

This was a fine race from start to finish. The *Maud* had slightly the best of the start but was closely followed and ultimately passed by both the *Ellen* and the *Kathleen*. The two latter now raced for and for and a fine struggle ensued which finally resulted in the *Ellen* getting the best of it and eventually won the race by a couple of lengths. Time 8 min. 18 sec.

FOR LIGHT GIGS: open to European Non-Commissioned officers and men of any Regiment or Corps of the Garrison, or European crews of any H.M.'s vessels; entrance, \$1; first prize, \$5; second prize, \$5; time allowed for oars, 8 seconds per oar; boats to be approved by the Committee; distance, one mile.

Five boats started for this race and after a well contested finish the result was as follows:
A. & S. Highlanders' Argyle..... 1
Time, 7 min. 8 sec.

"CHAIRMAN'S CUP" presented by T. Jackson, Esq., Chairman of the Victoria Recreation Club; for four-oars, distance, one mile; entrance, \$10; to be rowed in boats the property of the Victoria Recreation Club.

SAILING RACE—For all open boats.
There were five starters namely, the *Sailors' Home* gig, Harbour Master's, steamer *Riversdale's* Tyari, Torpedo Depot's *Fiume*, and the Commodore's Galley *White Swan*. The boats got away to a good start at half-past one the *Sailors' Home* gig leading, with the Commodore's galley second, and a very fine race ensued between these two to the first mark, boat off Green Island, which they rounded almost together. The *Fiume* met with an accident and had to give up. The first mark boat was rounded as follows:—

Sailors' Home gig..... 1 50 00
Commodore's galley..... 2 05 00
Harbour Master's gig..... 3 10 00
Capt. Mooney's Tyari..... 4 52 00

Running across to Chung-hai on the wind the *Sailors' Home* gig increased its lead, the times of passing the second mark boat being:—

Sailors' Home gig..... 1 05 00
Commodore's galley..... 2 05 00
Harbour Master's gig..... 3 07 00
Capt. Mooney's Tyari..... 4 20 00

The *Sailors' Home* gig rounded and the Commodore's galley had it all her own way, working well up to windward and running away from the others, the winning mark being passed as follows:—

Commodore's galley *White Swan*..... 3 04 00
Sailors' Home gig..... 3 15 00
Harbour Master's gig..... 3 30 00

The *Tyari* took a course inside Stonecutters' Island, and came in some time after the others. There was a splendid wind for sailing, and the time made in this race is better than for some years past.

The yacht race was won by the *Zephyr* which, with her time allowance, beat the *Namoi* by 7 min. 46 sec.

SECOND DAY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH.

The weather was much the same as on the previous day—excepting perhaps that the wind was a trifle higher and the water a little rougher. The attendance was good and the lengthy programme was carried through without a hitch. The International race was a hollow affair owing to Kennedy not being able to row in the Scotch boat, this fact made the odds a guinea to a gooseberry on the Englishmen. The various other results were well contested but no great amount of interest seemed to be taken in the Regatta by the general public.

INTERNATIONAL RACE "CHALLENGE CUP" For four-oars; cup presented by J. S. Laprak, Esq., to be held by the winning crew for one year; but to remain the property of the Club; distance, one mile and a-half; entrance, \$10; to be rowed in boats the property of the Victoria Recreation Club.

"Leek"—First.
Station No. 2.—
Bow, H. P. Wadman..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, W. H. Potts..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, G. C. Master..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, J. D. Hickley..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, G. A. Caldwell..... 5th. 11b.

"Thistle"—Second.
Station No. 1.—
Bow, F. Dumas..... 1st. 8lb.
No. 2, E. L. Duncan..... 2nd. 7lb.
No. 3, Captain Henderson..... 3rd. 6lb.
Stroke, A. G. Stephen..... 4th. 5lb.
Cox, R. de C. Boyd..... 5th. 4lb.

Both boats got away to a good start, and rowing in fair form made a pretty race for the first quarter, then the English, began to get ahead of their opponents. The Scotchmen made several spurts but the other crew were always equal to the occasion and won as they liked by four lengths. The Scotch crew were wretchedly "coxed" but anyhow they had no chance with the Saxons. Time 11.23.

SENIOR SCULLS.—Open to any member of the Victoria Recreation Club; distance, one mile; entrance fee, \$5; cup presented by the Farce community.

H. Skitt, 1st. 9lb. 11b.
E. B. Hether, 2nd. 9lb. 11b.

For a time the boats rowed well together, but the long steady stroke of Skitt soon began to tell and he went easily to the front. Shepherd appeared very much out of training and rowed in miserable form. After covering about half the distance he collapsed entirely leaving Skitt to win as he pleased. Time 8 min. 27 sec.

GARRISON CUP presented by the Officers of the Garrison; for four oars; distance, one mile; entrance, \$10; to be rowed in boats the property of the Victoria Recreation Club or boats similar in build to those belonging to the Victoria Recreation Club.

"Thistle"—First.
Station No. 5.—Black and White.
Bow, H. P. Wadman..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, F. G. Young, R.E..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, G. L. Duncan..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, G. C. Master..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, G. A. Caldwell..... 5th. 11b.

"Leek"—Second.
Station No. 3.—Admiral's Flag.
Bow, P. V. Oliver..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, H. W. Metcalfe..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, R. B. Giffiths..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, J. D. Hickley..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, H. Brocklebank..... 5th. 11b.

"Victoria"—Third.
Station No. 2.—Scarlet and White.
Bow, F. L. Jackson..... 1st. 11b.
No. 2, Captain Robinson..... 2nd. 11b.
No. 3, F. L. Jackson..... 3rd. 11b.
Stroke, Captain Henderson..... 4th. 11b.
Cox, R. de C. Boyd..... 5th. 11b.

The five boats got away to a splendid start, the *Victoria* coming to the front first closely followed by the *Leek* and *Thistle*—the *Ross* lying fourth, and the Canton crew well out of it before half the distance was covered. This order was maintained until near the flagstaff when the *Thistle* and *Leek* each spurred, the result being a clever win for the former by half a length. Time 7 min. 7 sec.

FOR HEAVY GIGS: open to European Non-Commissioned officers and men of any Regiment or Corps of the Garrison, or to European members of the Police Force; distance, one mile; time allowed for oars, 8 seconds per oar; four boats must start for 2nd prize; entrance, \$1; first prize, \$5; second prize, \$5; (the winner of race No. 1 first day, to be excluded).

Five boats started for this race and after an exciting struggle the result was as follows:—
A. & S. Highlanders' Louise..... 1
A. & S. Highlanders' Sutherland..... 2

THE STRANDING OF THE "TOKIO MARU"

The *Japan Herald* of the 8th instant contains the following additional particulars of the loss of the Japanese Yokohama-Shanghai liner *Tokio Maru* (Capt. Drummond), of which we published telegraphic information on the 10th inst. "Our Yokohama contemporary says:—"That misfortune never came singly has been proved by experience to be beyond dispute, but it is probable that in no case is it more accentuated than in regard to vessels. For years a steamship company will go along with out accidents, and then two or three will occur in swift succession. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha is just now experiencing this. Only a few days ago we had to report that the *Harima* was ashore near Isahaya, and before 'he is extricated we regret to have to record a still more serious accident in the stranding of the *Tokio Maru*. This vessel was on her way from Hakodate to Yokohama, and on Friday night she went ashore in the light 'between Mela ledge and Suaki. News reached the head office on Saturday, and the *Kai Maru*, with lights, &c., was sent to her assistance yesterday morning. She returned to-day, and Mr. Barrie, the Superintendent Engineer of the company, left again shortly after noon with the *Kai Maru*. There is some hope that the weather being calm, of yet getting her off, as she is lying on the sand, broadside on to the sea, and with a slight list to starboard. She is making water in both her engine room and after hold, but her fore compartment is clear, and if the swell should go down enough to enable the lights to get alongside, it may yet be possible to lighten her and get her off. The accident is reported to have occurred from mistaking Mela Head for Suaki, and therefore hauling up too soon to the northward."

PROCLAMATION BY VICEROY CHANG CHI-TUNG.

Knowing the richness of the soil of these Provinces, and in order to turn some of the treasures buried therein into your coffers, I issue this proclamation as Viceroy of the Liang Hu Provinces. I have the Imperial sanction for the carrying out of such enterprises as the erection of iron mining and smelting works. I have caused foundries to be built at Hungyang (or Wuchang). The buried treasures I speak of are coal, iron, and other mines, and are, and were from time immemorial, only waiting to yield their hides to whomsoever hath the enterprise to delve for them. In order to make any such undertaking successful, immense quantities of coal must be used to fuel the furnaces, and work the engines. Having regard to the people's welfare I shall not buy any foreign coal, but shall employ our own coal, and so enrich the people both individually and collectively. I have sent *wayangs* to different parts of these Provinces to inspect, and also to Seichuen and Kiangsi, the sample of coal and iron taken from the various mines. Several samples of hard and soft coal have been sent to me, and tested, and many of them proved to be excellent for furnace and steamship consumption. In Hunan and Hsienan there are good iron mines, and man under wealth to these provinces, and properly worked. From calculations I have made I find some 1,500 piculs of coal *per diem* would be consumed by cotton mills, and run and iron factories, and besides a great deal more would find sale with our steamship companies, such as the China Merchants and others. Therefore it is your own advantage that you should at once proceed to operations on the mines that are under your feet. I will take all the coal, whether hard or soft, you can bring me, and in case I cannot use it all myself guarantee a market for the surplus. If the coalminers have not been properly or profitably worked, you may get at the surface coal, and you could not sink to any depth. To remedy this you must purchase foreign pumps that will easily get rid of the water. Such pumps can be worked by yourselves without the assistance of a foreign supervisor, for the gear and working are very simple. I assure you I will like all the coal you can bring me, and I will not default you in the payments.

THE CHINESE AUDIENCE QUESTION.

IMPORTANT IMPERIAL DECREE.

The *Shen Pao* of the 15th inst. contains an Imperial Decree to the following effect:—"That to the Foreign Treaties Powers have been up to the present time represented by Ministers residing in Peking. That various communications have been exchanged with them year by year, and that the Treaty Powers have been drawn into closer friendship and relationship with China and with each other. That the Foreign Ministers are at Peking to look after the interests of their respective countries, and to see that the treaties made by those countries with China are carried out, and generally to hold friendly intercourse with us, for our mutual business and benefit. We are well pleased. In February, We assumed control of this Empire, and her Majesty, the Empress Dowager, handed the reins of Government into my keeping, and retired herself from the cares of State. On that occasion, acting on her own wish and desire, the Empress Dowager addressed the *Tung-li* Yamen to invite all the foreign Ministers to a banquet, to celebrate the Emperor's marriage, which was then approaching. We have now resigned over this Empire for two years and have lived in harmony with all the Treaty Powers, and We decreed that henceforward the Ministers of those Powers, residing at the capital, shall have audience with us. In the 12th year of the reign of the Emperor Tung-chih, the foreign Ministers had audience with that Emperor, so that now, when the present foreign Ministers apply for audience with us, that precedent shall be followed and audience granted, the etiquette observed on that occasion being observed. Henceforth, at the beginning of every year (Chinese reckoning) the foreign Ministers shall be summoned to our presence, and the Government and desire to remain so. All Ministers and Acting Ministers, who desire to have audience, shall communicate with the *Tung-li* Yamen, who in turn shall memorialize the Throne, and audience shall be granted. The Ministers, when summoned, shall be invited to a banquet, and henceforward, this shall be the standing custom. Should any new Minister arrive in the capital after the audience, he must wait until the Chinese New Year, before he can approach the Throne for extraordinary events, marriages, or such auspicious occasions, the *Tung-li* Yamen shall petition the Throne, and all the Foreign Ministers shall be invited to a banquet. We are friendly with all the Foreign Powers, and therefore have commanded this to be observed, and the etiquette to be observed, by the different Ministers at the audience, shall be continued to the Chinese New Year, when the Ministers shall be summoned to the Throne."

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 20th inst. There were present—His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government (Mr. F. Fleming), Mr. W. M. Deane (Acting Colonial Secretary), Mr. E. J. Ackerly (Acting Attorney-General), Mr. H. E. Woodhouse (Acting Colonial Treasurer), Mr. N. G. Mitchell (Acting Registrar-General), Messrs. C. P. Chater, P. Ryrie, T. H. Whitehead, Ho Kai, and J. J. Kewick, (unofficial members), and Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Acting Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

REVENUE FROM LIGHT DUES.

Pursuant to notice Mr. T. H. Whitehead asked the following question:—Will the Government lay on the table a statement showing the aggregate amount of Light Dues collected from 1st January to 31st March last, both days inclusive, and from 1st April to 30th November last, also both days inclusive?

The Acting Colonial Secretary replied, that the amount of Light Dues collected from the 1st of January to the 31st of March last was \$8,100.00 and from the 1st April to the 30th November last, the Dues collected amounted to \$56,117.64.

NATURALIZATION OF CHINESE.

The Acting Attorney-General in moving the second reading of two Bills relative to the naturalization of Lai Si Tong and Choi Wai, otherwise Choi Yau, stated that the applicants were merchants carrying on business in Bonham Strand.

THE END OF THE CIVIL LIST.

The Acting Attorney-General moved the third reading of an Ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 13 of 1860, for the establishment of a Civil List.

The Bill was read a third time without opposition.

ADJOURNED COMMITTEES.

Upon the suggestion of the Acting Attorney-General, Committee on Bills entitled "The Gambling Ordinance, 1890," and "An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Bankruptcy," were postponed sine die. Respecting the Gambling Ordinance the speaker said the official members of the Council desired to have further time to consider the provisions of the Bill.

PUBLIC OFFICERS' PENSION FUND.

Some opposition was offered by Mr. T. H. Whitehead to the third reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for, and regulate a Pension Fund for widows and children of Public Officers of the Colony which was moved by the Acting Attorney-General. Mr. Whitehead urged that the Fund should be controlled by the Supreme Court and not rest entirely with the Governor of the Colony. The Attorney-General in reply stated that the control of the Fund would, by virtue of the provisions of the Bill, be largely vested in the Supreme Court. His Excellency, the Acting Governor then spoke on the subject at some length and said that a Fund of a precisely similar kind was in a very promising condition in the colony of Jamaica. Rather than cause the Council the trouble of dealing with the Bill again in Committee Mr. Whitehead withdrew his motion for the postponement of the Bill, which then passed its third reading.

THE REPORT ON EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC WORKS.

A long discussion relative to the unofficial members proposed to attend the report on the proceedings of the meetings of the Finance Committee at which the estimates of the "Public Works, Extraordinary" were discussed at length. A long discussion took place, His Excellency objecting to forward it on the grounds that it was drawn up in language that could not fail to convey a false impression to the Secretary of State, for the Colonies. So far from refusing to give information he had, he said, furnished all the information that it was in his power to lay before non-official members. It would be unfair to forward a document of the kind indicated, until the official members had an opportunity of explaining, from their points of view, the matters therein alluded to.

After some further discussion the Bill was referred back to the Finance Committee and the Council adjourned until Monday the 22nd inst.

December 22nd.

THE UNOFFICIALS' MEMORANDUM.

His Excellency said that the object of the meeting to-day was to deal with the report of the Finance Committee. Since the last meeting of the Council he had had the honour of conferring with the unofficial members respecting their proposed additions to the report, and he thought that some of the arrangements could be arrived at in order that no further delay in the transmission of the report to the Secretary of State might be avoided.

Mr. P. Ryrie—said he thought that the report on the Estimates had been dealt with sufficiently for the present. He would lay on the table a memorandum which he had reason to believe would be forwarded by his Excellency to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Ryrie then laid the Memorandum of the unofficial members on the table. It was read by the Clerk of Councils and ran as follows:—

ESTIMATES FOR PUBLIC WORKS, EXTRAORDINARY, FOR 1891.

In connection with the estimates for 1890 the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, Lord Knutsford, addressed the most important despatch to the Government dated 18th April last. We are fully convinced of the appropriateness of Lord Knutsford's views and opinions therein expressed and that they apply, with equal if not greater force, to the estimates for 1891. So much so that we desire to draw particular attention to the concluding paragraphs of the said despatch.

Para 1 reads:—

"I do not wish to imply any doubt that the colony, provided the revenue continues to remain adequate, can afford to construct in a substantial way many public works of which there is pressing necessity, but the way in which the estimates have been framed of late years seems to indicate a tendency to initiate numerous works on a perhaps unnecessarily liberal scale, without due regard to the capabilities of the Public Works Department, the relative importance of the works, and the possibility of defraying the total expenditure to which the colony will thus be ultimately committed."

Para 2 reads:—

"I shall begin to receive at an early date an accurate statement showing all the public works which are in contemplation, with the estimated cost of each, the amount spent on each up to the 31st December last, and the amount it may reasonably be expected that the Public Works Department will be able to spend on each during the year. I need scarcely point to the facility of placing on the estimates sums largely in excess of the powers of that Department to make good of. The statement requested should include details and explanations of the items for 'Sanitary Works' which was originally \$1,500,000 (of which about \$1,000,000 has been spent), and as to which no information has been received. The Public Works Committee have been instructed to discontinue such a statement made as to the comparative agency of all. It seems

that even if funds are forthcoming it will take many years to carry out the programme now contemplated, and unless some works are altogether postponed others of pressing necessity must be delayed."

And Para 3 reads:—

"Pending the receipt of the information above asked for, I limit my approval to those works to which the Colony is already committed, and to those which are deemed to be of urgent necessity."

In the minute of his Excellency the Officer Administering the Government on the Estimates for 1891 dated 20th October last, paragraph 7 reads:—

"The revised estimated ordinary expenditure for 1891 is \$1,674,780. The estimated extraordinary expenditure, \$300,270 instead of \$304,270 as stated by the Officer Administering the Government a short time ago, some omissions having been made in the draft estimates as originally prepared. This makes a total expenditure of \$2,595,050. Initiated, therefore, of having a balance of \$46,000 on hand at the end of 1891 there is an estimated deficit of about \$100,000."

But the greatest increase in expenditure is caused by that estimated as necessary for Public Works."

"As a proof of the continued increase of expenditure under this head it is worthy of remark that in the year 1875 the amount expended on the Surveyor General's Department, on Public Works and buildings, roads, streets and bridges amounted to \$169,642 whereas for 1891 the estimated sum for the Surveyor General's, the water and drainage and the Sanitary Department amounts to no less than \$300,270 while the total amount estimated for the construction of such public buildings as have actually been commenced or are in contemplation is \$2,540,267, which will have to be further increased should a new goal be constructed."

In view of the above very clearly expressed and decided opinion of the Secretary of State regarding the estimates for 1890 and the great and growing increase of public works expenditure pointed out by H.E. the Officer Administering the Government in the minute quoted we deeply regret the continuance of the practice, hitherto obtaining on the part of the Government when the outlay was on a limited scale of asking for such large votes of money without providing with more complete information and more reasonably detailed statements respecting the proposed public works than those which it has been customary to supply. Government has invited us to sanction it spending upwards of \$300,000 during 1891. We seriously question whether this amount is not largely in excess of the powers and the capabilities of the Public Works Department to make proper use of. We think such sums should be voted cautiously and with great circumspection. In addition to the information now supplied, we earnestly desire to record our opinion that for the future before being asked to vote we should be provided with reasonably detailed statements of each of the proposed works, setting forth all the reasons which necessitate and justify the proposed expenditure, also, we think that reasonably detailed design, drawings and plans should be submitted to the Council. All this should be done, we submit, at such a time that we may have ample and sufficient opportunity for due inspection and deliberation, and of becoming acquainted with all the reasons for sanctioning the proposed work and ascertaining the cost it is really likely to entail.

With such evidences of wastefulness and extravagance as attended the building of the Victoria College, as are connected with the building of the Civil Hospital Staff Quarters at a cost of \$73,000, and seem to be tantamount to the making of the foundations of the New Central Market, and for other good reasons, it is absolutely incumbent upon us to vote public money cautiously, and with due circumspection. The Resolution agreed to after modification by the Legislative Council on the 3rd ultimo asked for a general statement, embodying reasonably detailed particulars of each proposed work and setting forth the necessity for such work, in order that the Council might know exactly why and for what they are voting the money.

The information supplied us has not, in our opinion, been of a sufficiently detailed nature and we desire to express a hope that previous to being asked to vote large sums in the future all such particulars will be given as will enable us to judge of the extent and nature of the work proposed and of the cost which its completion will entail in so far as such can possibly be ascertained.

As an instance of how matters have been carried on we may be permitted to here quote an extract from the Surveyor General's letter of 17th June last to the Acting Colonial Secretary:—

"I attempted to prepare a satisfactory estimate for the new year, but failed, for the simple reason that for some of the works included in the estimates for 1889, which had to be carried on to the present year, no detailed designs or estimates, as far as I can ascertain, had ever been prepared, and it was hopeless without assistance, in the very limited time available before the date fixed for sending in the estimates, to attempt to prepare all these estimates and designs."

And further, the Surveyor General's letter of 14th August last, also to the Acting Colonial Secretary, para 3 reads:—

"The preparation of these estimates has involved an unusual amount of labour owing to the introduction of the new form of estimate and to the practice which appears to have prevailed in the past of sanctioning and commencing works before detailed drawings and estimates had been prepared."

We earnestly and respectfully recommend that in the case of any new work proposed the Surveyor General should in all future cases lay a statement before the Public Works Committee, giving the fullest details and estimates. The Public Works Committee would then consider each one, and report upon it to the Finance Committee; and no vote should be asked from Council until the fullest details of every nature had been obtained and considered during these preliminary stages. When money has been voted by the Council on a definite Government statement and on the strength of carefully prepared detailed plans, no material change should be permitted to be made without reference to the Public Works Committee, and without the consent of the Council obtained thereto. Such a course as this would secure to the public an efficient and effective control over the reception and execution of extraordinary public works, and over the expenditure thereon, a control which it is impossible for the Council officials to exercise except through the medium of the Committee named."

The practice of sanctioning and commencing works before detailed drawings, designs, plans and estimates have been carefully prepared cannot be supported and should be discontinued. We further recommend that before sanctioning further new works, than those already authorized, the most important public works already sanctioned should be pushed on to completion. The Surveyor General's letter to the Finance Committee dated 14th August last, in which he stated that the estimated cost of the Sanitary Works was \$1,500,000, and as to which no information has been received, we are of opinion that the Public Works Committee should be instructed to discontinue such a statement made as to the comparative agency of all. It seems

almost impossible to make a fixed contract for the cost of laying the foundations because so much depends upon the nature of the foundation. It was not let for a lump sum but it is nevertheless a contract. It would be impossible to say exactly what the amount would be. The work is paid for according to how much is done. I do not know how you could let it for a lump sum until you know what you have to do. I have endeavoured to explain, that when the contract is let under the system of measures it is the Engineer in charge who measures up the work. The Engineer in charge of the work is responsible for all measurements of which he has charge, etc."

We are strongly in favour of contracts being made for a lump sum. The colony is committed to an unknown and unlimited expenditure if the contract sum is not fixed beforehand. We would urge the imperative necessity for all measurements being made by the Engineer—not by the overseer—and that the rule be not in any one instance departed from. We cannot but regard the increase in the Estimate from \$335,000 to \$700,000, proposed to be spent on this work, as excessive and extravagant, and are decidedly of opinion that a reduction in the amount, consistent with efficiency and the Colony's requirements, can be effected.

GAOL LIGHTHOUSE.

We heartily approve of this very desirable and necessary work, and earnestly hope it will be pushed on to completion with all possible despatch.

PRAYA RECLAMATION.

SITE FOR PROPOSED NEW WESTERN MARKET.

We are sorry to observe that little progress has been made with this work, though it was commenced as long ago as 1888. We recommend that the undertaking be proceeded with with as little delay as possible, so as to permit of the construction of the proposed new western market. A return on the heavy outlay to be incurred would then be obtained, and a considerable sum would be realized for the site of the present western market.

NEW ROADS AND PREPARATORY WORKS.

KENNEDY ROAD SITE.

We earnestly hope that the difficulties with the military authorities will soon be got over, to enable the proposed work to be proceeded with with a view to disposing of the desirable building sites which will be then opened up.

GAOL EXTENSION.

The erection of a new goal is in our opinion undesirable and unnecessary inasmuch as the present building has proved in the past most healthy and is in good repair. We think it is capable of extension in such a manner as to provide for all necessary requirements. Being informed that the two commissions which last sat on the question had arrived at the conclusion that there is over-crowding, we therefore recognize that it may be necessary to extend the present goal and will be prepared to vote the money for an extension of that course.

We have not voted the money for the requisite additions as the sum required is unknown, and no definite scheme has been determined upon nor have plans, so far as we know, been prepared. We have reason to believe there are a large number of mendicants who make their way over to the colony from the mainland of China. There seems to be a consensus of opinion in favor of devising some system whereby criminals could be deported with some reasonable guarantee that they would not be able to return to the colony, and further that nothing but fogging for the worst class of native criminals has any deterrent effect whatever.

The separate system of solitary confinement seems to be an unknown quantity. All are not agreed that it is the most deterrent. Its reformative effects are more or less a speculation. It will be unwise to experiment on a large scale in this direction until more is known about this system's effects.

CATTLE DEPOT EXTENSION AND NEW SLAUGHTER HOUSE—PIG AND SHEEP DEPOSITS.

In the Estimates for 1889 the estimated cost was \$74,000. It has now risen to \$100,000, and the Surveyor-General thinks that this amount will be a close approximation to the actual cost.

The present system for pigs and sheep certainly requires to be improved, and we regard a new slaughter house as absolutely necessary. We cannot, however, but think that the sum proposed to be spent is an altogether too extravagant a scale.

PUBLIC LAUNDRIES.

We think the proposed experimental scheme worthy of a fair trial. It has been strongly recommended by the Sanitary Board.

The pecuniary risk is small, while the possible advantages to be derived are great.

CIVIL HOSPITAL STAFF QUARTERS.

We think it well to quote the Surveyor-General's own words from his letter of 17th June last to the Acting Colonial Secretary, para. 10:—

"The increase in the estimate of the quarters for the Hospital Staff from \$43,000 to \$75,000 is thus accounted for. On my arrival I found the foundations practically completed to the level of the ground floor. On these foundations, an expenditure of no less a sum than \$12,800 had been incurred. The designs were prepared and it was practically impossible to deviate from them to any considerable extent without incurring additional expense in altering the foundations. As the Government was committed to the work there appeared no other course open than to complete them as economically as possible, and the contract was let by public tender. I can, however, but regard this building as altogether too large and extravagant a scale for the purpose for which it is intended."

If feasible, we strongly urge the conversion of part of these new quarters, which are to cost such a large sum into an addition to the hospital. We recommend that this Station should be completed as soon as possible. The building is to cost upwards of \$41,000, and the Surveyor-General reports that it is a work of primary importance. If not occupied the building is certain to deteriorate and ultimately further expenditure will be necessary.

RECONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNOR'S PEAK RESIDENCE.

We are of opinion that a new Summer residence at the Peak is necessary, the present being wholly unsuitable. The vote of \$40,000 passed in Finance Committee on the statement of the Acting Colonial Secretary that "we must vote the amount on principle, and that in this case we are asked to vote for a principle; we sincerely trust will not be increased later on, as we are given to understand that neither the site nor the building has been decided upon, and therefore the amount passed was merely guess work."

It seems to us that the proposed expenditure of \$150,000 already voted on the sewerage of Victoria was a desirable one, to incur, but as the work has been commenced and has therefore to be gone on with we do not disapprove of the decision of Government to sanction and carry out the Hon. O. Chisholm's proposals and plan, but we are of opinion that it would have been better when such decision was approved of by the Council that it should have been arrived at in such a manner as to have enabled against any possibility of any material alteration or of any expenditure and departures from these plans, by a change of object.

It seems to us that it may be desirable sooner or later to amend the Constitution of the Sanitary Board so as to entrust it with the supervising authority of the Water Supply and the Drainage works—public and private alike—when the same shall be sufficiently completed. We are not satisfied that these works are of urgent or even pressing necessity, and we therefore recommend that they be postponed. Questions of Finance and of Expenditure are matters which fall specially within the competence of the unofficial members. No expenditure should ever be made until it has been sanctioned by the Council. Essential works already commenced in course of construction should be systematically pushed on and completed. The unofficial members should not be called upon to supply money for new public works inserted in future Estimates. The value of the unofficial element lies in the direction of a right to be consulted before any thing is done which will commit the colony to any serious expenditure, and, in affording the public through it, an opportunity of discussing every matter before such matter is brought into final operation."

A Public Works Committee exists in name only.

Signed P. RYRIE, C. P. CHATER, J. J. KEWICK, HO KAI, T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hongkong, 20th December, 1890.

To His Excellency The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong

His Excellency said that the document laid on the table with a view to having it forwarded to the Secretary of State, would, he thought, be sent to its desired destination by the Governor. He was glad that the unofficial members had adopted the course proposed in drawing up the said document in lieu of the proposed additions to their report on the Estimates. The course pursued would facilitate the despatch of business and leave little or nothing undone that should have been done ere the Governor returned to these shores.

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GOVERNMENT OFFICES; EXTENSION OF NEW LAW COURTS.

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His Excellency then in a very lengthy and explanatory address spoke upon all the points raised in the memorandum. As to the complaint that there was not sufficient explanation in regard to the Public Works Extraordinary he was under the impression that the three reports of the Surveyor-General fully covered the ground. As to the necessity of improvement in the accommodation of prisoners at Victoria Gaol, these could be but little doubt. The way in which prisoners were confined for debt was not such as was in keeping with the spirit of the times in which we now live, and it would be a question for consideration whether such a custom should be continued. A good many leading citizens with whom he had conversed on the subject thought it could hardly be abolished. If, however, it were continued there was no doubt but that reasonably suitable accommodation for debtors must be provided. If a citizen contracted fraudulent debts a remedy at law was provided here as elsewhere. As to the question of public works necessary for each prisoner he had ascertained that at present as eight Chinese prisoners were confined in cells which were built to accommodate but three. That was directly contrary to the spirit of the Public Health Ordinance, and, legally speaking, the Superintendent of the Gaol could be prosecuted and punished for it. He had sent certain propositions to the Secretary of State in respect to what he considered, after personal inspection and careful inquiries, were necessary improvements of the Gaol. Until Lord Knutsford's reply thereto was to hand it would be useless to submit plans and specifications to the Council—that would be done in due course. When he did so later on he felt sure that the Council would willingly vote the required sum to meet the expenditure. Referring to large numbers of criminals who should not be kept in the goal, his Excellency said that the utility of the present system of deportation was not too manifest, and that the subject of the permanent expulsion of a certain class of criminals would no doubt meet with the careful and prompt consideration of the Governor upon his return here. His Excellency concluded by saying that, as in the past in the future he would do all that was possible to provide members with all particulars of sums upon which their vote was required. He could see no objection to such a course being followed and thought that the Governor would not object to it either.

The report on the Estimates for 1891 was formally adopted, the sum of \$100,000 being alone disallowed.

THE "NAMO" PIRACY AFFAIR.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would ask:—What reason the Government had for despatching H. M. S. Linnet in search of the pirates who looted the Namoa on the 10th inst.?

His Excellency explained the reason of the delay in the despatch of the Linnet at considerable length, and said that he preferred to do so at once rather than keep the public without the information for another fortnight. In the course of his remarks he said that at 10 a.m. on the 11th inst. Commodore Church called on him and reported what he had heard on the subject. He (the Acting Governor) suggested the despatch of a gunboat and the Commodore concurred in that plan. He told the Commodore that before despatching the gunboat he would communicate with Mr. MacLeary Brown, Commissioner of Customs, as that official might supply useful information of the part of the coast where the piracy was committed. Mr. Brown called on him promptly and agreed to despatch Capt. Stewart, of the Chinese revenue cruiser Kalpan, on board the Linnet. He then wrote a note to the Commodore telling him of what had been decided upon. That was at 11 a.m. on the 11th inst. In the course of the afternoon the Commodore sent him an official despatch stating that the Linnet would start early the next morning. He, the Acting Governor, did not ask the Commodore to despatch the Linnet at any special time. If he was to blame it lay in his not having stated the hour at which the gunboat should leave. Why the Linnet did not start until the next morning he had not taken steps to ascertain, but it was stated by the Commodore that the gunboat was sent rather with a view to getting information than to doing anything more decisive. Another probable reason for the delay was that the Linnet had been on a previous voyage to the coast where the piracy was committed, and it was supposed to have landed in the night. That was what he gathered from the Commodore at 10 o'clock a.m. As to despatching the Namoa, his Excellency showed that that would have been impracticable and undesirable, as had been proved on the occasion of a previous piratical attack on a British vessel some 22 years ago.

THE CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNMENT.

Mr. P. Ryrie addressed the Council in his capacity of Senior Unofficial member, regarding the retirement of Mr. Fleming, Colonial Secretary, upon the return of Mr. William MacLeary Brown, Commissioner of Customs, to Hongkong. He said, amongst other things, that the Acting Governor had conducted the business of the Colony in a manner that was satisfactory to all, and that the Chairman of Government, which extended over 24 years, (Applause.)

THE "NAMO" PIRACY AFFAIR.

THE NAVAL AUTHORITIES TO BLAME.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 22nd inst. His Excellency the Acting Governor, in reply to a question put by Mr. T. H. Whitehead, gave the following reasons for the delay in the despatch of a British gunboat to the scene of the piratical and murderous attack upon the steamship Namoa on the 10th inst.:

His Excellency—I think, inasmuch as if any one is responsible for what took place in regard to this matter, it is myself, it will be more satisfactory for me to at once answer the honorable member's question than to wait till after the arrival of the Governor. I will therefore state shortly the facts as to what took place in so far as I am concerned in relation to this matter. About ten o'clock on the morning of the 11th inst. Commodore Church came to see me and informed me of what had taken place. At that time I had received no official report from any one, nor had the matter been in any way officially brought to my notice. The Commodore told me what had been related to him, and I then suggested that it might be desirable to send a gunboat to the scene of the piracy. The Commodore expressed his willingness to do so, and I told him that before sending a gunboat, who probably knew the locality well and would be able to give me valuable information, I sent to Mr. MacLeary Brown, and he very kindly came to see me in half an hour's time. I told him what the Commodore had mentioned to me, what facts had come to his knowledge previously. He agreed with me that it would be desirable for a gunboat to go, and said that he would ask Captain Stewart to accompany the gunboat, if such would be agreeable to Commodore Church. Captain Stewart, I may mention, is captain of the Kalpan, a revenue cutter. I wrote to the Commodore and told him of the offer of Mr. MacLeary Brown, and that Mr. MacLeary Brown would accompany Captain Stewart to communicate with him, in order that he might go with the gunboat if such was considered desirable. This was about 11 o'clock, for Mr. MacLeary Brown came to me shortly after the Commodore had left. During the course of the afternoon I received information by letter from the Commodore that the Linnet would leave early the next morning. I did not consider it necessary to request Commodore Church to send a gunboat at any particular time. I considered that a matter for the naval authorities, and if I am to blame to any extent it is that I did not request the naval authorities to send the Linnet at any particular time. That did not strike me as being a part of my duty. I thought the request that the gunboat should go at a particular hour was a matter rather for the naval authorities than myself. Why the Linnet did not go until next morning I can not take upon myself to say, but I have spoken to Commodore Church since on the subject, and his impression was that the particular object in sending the gunboat was to obtain information rather than with any idea at that period of being able to do anything in the way of securing any of the pirates. It must be borne in mind that the Namoa came in at eight o'clock that morning, that what had taken place took place about one o'clock the previous night, and that therefore if any of the pirates had landed at that particular spot where the Linnet made for, they would probably have got away before the Linnet's arrival. I believe that that was one fact which influenced Commodore Church in not having despatched a gunboat sooner. There may have been another fact, and I believe there was, which was, that Commodore Church thought that by going up the coast in daylight, the boat might prove more useful than if she started during the course of the afternoon, when darkness would have come on them very soon after starting. These are the circumstances connected with what took place on that day, and as I have already mentioned I saw Commodore Church about ten o'clock in the morning, saw Mr. MacLeary Brown about half past one, and then, as I have already mentioned, he suggested that a gunboat should be sent. It has been suggested that in addition to the gunboat having been sent, it might have been possible for the Government to have sent one of their own steamers, namely the Fame. I candidly admit that on that particular day it did not occur to me to send the Fame, and I thought it would be far better for a gunboat to go than for a colonial steamer; but a few days afterwards when more information was received in connection with the whereabouts of these pirates, it did strike me that it might be possible to send off the Fame in a short time. Accordingly I directed steps to be taken to ascertain if she could be sent off. The Colonial Secretary, however, very properly brought to my notice the difficulty in sending the Fame, and that idea was abandoned. The reason of this was that some twenty-two years ago this very Fame was sent on a similar expedition, and the Secretary of State wrote a despatch complaining that such a thing had been done. I will read you some extracts from the correspondence that took place. The correspondence was forwarded in a despatch from the Colonial Office dated October 22nd, 1868. It is a formal despatch, and the Secretary of State does not make any comment on the matter. He enclosed in the first place a letter from the Minister at Peking, addressed to Lord Stanley. The Minister at Peking says, "I have a great pleasure in expressing to all members of the Civil Service the assistance they have rendered me during the greater part of the last year, assistance which has gone far, I may say very far, towards lightening the burden of my task. There is also another matter—I am desirous now of alluding to, Mr. A. to one who is not a member of that other Council, but who is a member of that other Council, before which every important matter is referred, namely, Mr. General Digby-Barker. I cannot feel too grateful to him for the very valuable assistance and information he has at all times so readily afforded to me in connection with the many important matters we have discussed together. The position I have held among you during the last ten months will necessarily become changed, but I have pleasure in feeling that my connection with you will not be severed. As I have done my best to seek for the colony in the past, so shall I endeavor to do so in the future. In conclusion, I sincerely hope that the year which is about to dawn upon us may prove to every respect a happy one for this colony, and I can entertain no better wish than that during the fifty years next in store for the colony may advance in strides as rapidly and in prosperity as great as it has during the fifty years which before very long will become numbered in the annals of the past. (Loud applause.)"

The Acting Colonial Secretary—I think, sir, I should like to add that the story as it appears in the paper is not altogether correct. It is true that I did take the Fame out with some armed policemen on board, but my object was to put myself in communication with a gunboat that had started after the pirates before. I received information that she had gone to the wrong island, and on going out I found that she had gone to the wrong island. The Fame went round the island, but found that the men had left. Mr. P. Ryrie said in former years the police had gone out in the same way and had arrested men. The subject then dropped.

THE RETURN OF THE GOVERNOR.

Respecting the expected return of his Excellency the Governor during the course of the day Mr. P. Ryrie, senior unofficial member, addressed the Acting Governor at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 22nd inst. as follows:—

Your Excellency, before we adjourn I should like with your permission to say a few words with regard to the tenure of your office as President of this Council for the last nine months. I think, and I am sure every member of this Council will agree with me, that it has been a satisfactory one, and that the manner in which you have conducted the business of this Council has never been surpassed in this colony. On any occasion when any member had any particular matter to bring forward you have shown a disposition to help him in what he wished to accomplish, and if possible to carry out what he desired. It is not an easy thing always to preside over a Council of this nature. You have two elements here—the official element and the unofficial element. Sometimes the unofficial element is inclined to question matters which have been done, and you have always met them in the most conciliatory manner, as we can all testify. Even in the late discussion on the Estimates, although it has been a long and tedious business, an acrimony of any kind entered into it. We met and amicably discussed the matter. You yourself have taken considerable trouble in connection with them and have received members both here and at Government House, and have expressed your views and your wish to meet them in every way. I have had a long experience of this Council—nearly twenty-four years now—and I speak with the authority of experience. We thank your Excellency for the manner in which you have presided over this Council for the last nine months, and we sincerely hope that it will not be the last over which you will preside. (Applause.)

His Excellency made the following reply:—Mr. Ryrie and hon. members, I thank you very much for the kind words that have just been spoken. It must be at all times satisfactory to one who has more or less important duties to perform to believe that he has performed them to the satisfaction of those whom they concern. From faults and shortcomings none of us are free, and I am quite aware that the work that has fallen to my lot during the last ten months has by no means been done in the perfect manner that it might have been. But I can assure you of this, that I have spared neither time nor trouble in endeavoring to deal with the different questions that came before me, and I have the satisfaction, at all events, of knowing that none have been shelved, that several have been settled, and that few have remained unsolved. I have to thank you on my part one and all very sincerely for the kindness with which you have supported me since I have presided over this Board. Our opinions may sometimes have differed, and if on any occasion I have been unable to comply with the suggestions that you have made I hope you will do me the credit to believe that any such action on my part has been prompted by no desire to oppose your wishes, but has simply been in consequence of what I conscientiously believed to be my duty. (Hear, hear.) I desire to take this opportunity of publicly expressing to all members of the Civil Service the assistance they have rendered me during the greater part of the last year, assistance which has gone far, I may say very far, towards lightening the burden of my task. There is also another matter—I am desirous now of alluding to, Mr. A. to one who is not a member of that other Council, but who is a member of that other Council, before which every important matter is referred, namely, Mr. General Digby-Barker. I cannot feel too grateful to him for the very valuable assistance and information he has at all times so readily afforded to me in connection with the many important matters we have discussed together. The position I have held among you during the last ten months will necessarily become changed, but I have pleasure in feeling that my connection with you will not be severed. As I have done my best to seek for the colony in the past, so shall I endeavor to do so in the future. In conclusion, I sincerely hope that the year which is about to dawn upon us may prove to every respect a happy one for this colony, and I can entertain no better wish than that during the fifty years next in store for the colony may advance in strides as rapidly and in prosperity as great as it has during the fifty years which before very long will become numbered in the annals of the past. (Loud applause.)

THE GOVERNOR'S ARRIVAL.

The Governor, Mr. William MacLeary Brown, accompanied by Lady MacLeary Brown, arrived in the colony yesterday afternoon by the P. O. steamer Pakin, after an absence of about nine months. Amidst the booming of guns from the British flagships his Excellency and

wanted, having left the village they visited a few hours previous to the Fame's arrival. We are always glad to see vigorous action on the part of the police, but what was possible the Fame captured by the junk, we are sadly afraid that some question would have been raised as to this performance of Imperial duties by a colonial tug. If we are going to have a gunboat well and good, but it is of little use sending out one, pop-gun and a few police, to capture well-armed junks. In consequence of that correspondence I did not consider it desirable, that any further instructions should be given about the Fame going in search of these pirates. I think, those are all the observations I have to make. In the latter part I have gone beyond what was asked in the question, but as it has been commented on in the newspapers that the Fame did not go out, I thought it was only fair to the Government and myself to show why that course has not been adopted. I may say that on the 11th inst. the Consul at Canton was telegraphed to, and a telegram was also sent to Macao, where it was thought the pirates might land, and in order that I might see myself what had taken place in so far as I could, I went myself on board the unfortunate ship two or three hours after her arrival and made all the enquiries possible in connection with the matter.

The Acting Colonial Secretary—I think, sir, I should like to add that the story as it appears in the paper is not altogether correct. It is true that I did take the Fame out with some armed policemen on board, but my object was to put myself in communication with a gunboat that had started after the pirates before. I received information that she had gone to the wrong island, and on going out I found that she had gone to the wrong island. The Fame went round the island, but found that the men had left. Mr. P. Ryrie said in former years the police had gone out in the same way and had arrested men. The subject then dropped.

